

Hafa Adai!

Military officials emphasize support, communication with NMI. **PAGE 2**  
2 public schools lead campus beautification projects. **PAGE 3**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## DRIVE-THRU PHARMACY

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. breaks ground on its drive-through pharmacy project that has been in the works for nearly three years. CHCC officials were joined by a number of government officials, personnel, and community members during yesterday's groundbreaking ceremony beside the Commonwealth Health Center.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

# HOPE rehab center may close

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

**T**he HOPE Recovery Center, one of only two addiction and mental health treatment facilities in the CNMI, faces a possible shutdown and the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division believes this will only harm the CNMI further.

According to Chester Hinds, OAG Criminal Division chief prosecutor, the HOPE rehabilitation center, which has kept many of those with addiction and mental health issues off the streets and has provided them with the treatment they need, is on the

verge of closing down.

The shutdown is believed to be due to budgetary constraints, although Hinds declined to give a categorical answer when pressed.

"What's happening right now is that HOPE is in the works of closing. They might

stay open another month or maybe two months, and I just want to stress how important HOPE is in the treatment community. The HOPE Recovery Center is sort of like inpatient housing for people with addiction. The recovery center

**See HOPE on Page 4**

## Pangelinan, 2 others resign as MPLT trustees

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Three trustees of the Marianas Public Land Trust, including former Saipan senator Maria Frisca T. Pangelinan, have submitted their courtesy resignation letters, leaving the MPLT

**MPLT board down to just 2; cannot have a quorum**

board with just two trustees, which means they cannot have a quorum.

*Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday that, with the resigna-

tions of Pangelinan, Martin B. Ada, and Peter Q. Cruz, the MPLT board is left with board chair Vianney B. Hocog and vice chair Carla N. Camacho.

Pangelinan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she submitted her courtesy

**See MPLT on Page 4**

## Man allegedly sexually abused minor since she was 9

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

A \$25,000 cash bail has been set for a man who is being accused of allegedly sexually abusing a minor since she was just 9 years old.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo im-

posed last Tuesday a \$25,000 cash bail on Catallino Cangco, who is accused of sexually abusing a minor on multiple occasions since she was 9; she is 16 now.

Cangco is facing charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the sec-

ond degree, child abuse, and disturbing the peace.

He was later remanded back to Department of Corrections custody after failing to post bail. He was ordered to return to court on Feb. 2, at 1:30pm for a preliminary hearing. He will be arraigned

**See MAN on Page 4**

## New CUC engine seen to arrive in Feb.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The shipment of a 10-megawatt unit generator that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has procured for approximately \$7 million to replace the aging unit at CUC's Power Plant 1 in Lower Base is expected to arrive on Saipan in mid-February.

However, it is faced with logistical challenges in that it is too heavy and big to be unloaded at the Saipan port and needs to be disassembled first,

according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho yesterday.

"It's currently in Korea and should be leaving sometime this week," Camacho said.

In March last year, Camacho said the engine unit was expected to arrive on Saipan in May 2022.

He said yesterday that the engine's manufacturer, Man B&W, is fully responsible for the transportation or mobili-



Camacho

zation of the engine to CUC's Power Plant 1.

He said Man B&W will install the engine and then have it operated, tested, then eventually turned over to CUC.

Under the contract, though, one Man B&W engineer will remain with the engine for the duration of one year to monitor its operation, he added.

Camacho said it is a turnkey **See CUC on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

A video surfaces on social media in Guam showing a man clubbing a dog with a piece of wood.

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### BUSINESS

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero reminds members to heed NMI issues.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Justin Bieber's early pop hits are no longer his after selling the rights to his early career music.

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# Local

## Military officials emphasize support, communication with NMI

Senior military officials, including assistant secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment/Chief Sustainability Officer) Meredith Berger, and commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps Gen. David H. Berger, traveled to Saipan Wednesday to meet with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios as part of high-level talks to expand cooperation and communication between

the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Assistant secretary Berger and Gen. Berger are two of the highest-ranking military officials to have personally visited the CNMI.

"We had an open and candid discussion about the CNMI's priorities and discussed ways that we can work more cooperatively to advance both the CNMI's and the U.S. mili-

tary's interests," Palacios said. "Assistant secretary Berger and Gen. Berger also assured me that they would communicate and relay our need for support and assistance to the Secretary of Defense."

"The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands provides phenomenal training opportunities for Marines, the joint force, and our allies and partners throughout the Indo-



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios meets with senior military officials, including Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment/Chief Sustainability Officer) Meredith Berger, and commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps Gen. David H. Berger as part of high-level talks to expand cooperation and communication between the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Pacific," said Gen. Berger. "We're building a strong community here, and it will only get better as we continue our dialogue with the leadership of the Northern Marianas."

Their meeting also focused on ongoing military projects, joint training exercises on Tinian, environmental issues surrounding these projects, and other matters.

"The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is

crucial to the strategic posture of Department of Navy forces," said assistant secretary Berger. "It was a pleasure to speak with Gov. Palacios about our shared vision of a more connected, more resilient CNMI that will benefit the local people and our service members."

The governor was joined by House of Representatives Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan); Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-

Saipan); Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), who chairs the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs; Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Senate committees on Federal Relations, on Public Utilities, Transportation & Communications, and on Rules and Procedures; and Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Senate committees on Fiscal Affairs and on Health, Education, and Welfare.

Gen. Berger has served as the assistant division commander of 2nd Marine Division; policy planner in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate, J-5; chief of staff for Kosovo Force headquarters in Pristina, Kosovo; director of Operations in Plans, Policies, and Operations, headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; and the deputy commandant for Combat Development and Integration.

Assistant secretary Berger is responsible for providing oversight and policy for Navy

See NMI on Page 4



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## CWA's Women's Entrepreneur Project to launch its third cohort this February

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

To help women entrepreneurs in the CNMI reach their business goals, the CNMI Women's Association will be launching the third cohort of their Women's Entrepreneur Project this February at their office on Capital Hill.

Called Entrepreneurial Sprint, the project's third cohort will last three weeks, beginning on Feb. 11-15, resuming on Feb. 18-22, and completing the third week, from Feb. 25 through to March 1, 2023. Each session will be an estimated three hours for each of the five days of the week, with weekend sessions from 2pm until 6pm, and Monday to Wednesday the sessions will be held from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. The cohort will focus on central business needs and will help interested participants in addressing that need.

Although the sessions will be held face to face at the CWA's headquarters on Capital Hill, participants who are unable to physically attend may join the session via Zoom. Registration is open now and CWA wants

to encourage all women in the CNMI to participate in this service, and register today at their events webpage at [www.cnmiwomen.org](http://www.cnmiwomen.org). If you have questions or concerns, visit their office on Capital Hill, contact CWA through their number (670) 233-8978 or 670-233-9411, or email them at [cnmiwomen@gmail.com](mailto:cnmiwomen@gmail.com). You may also find CWA on their social media platforms, just search @cnmiwomen on Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube.

CWA membership signups are also available on their website, and those individuals interested in becoming a member are encouraged to do so. The Guinaha or the "assets" membership is as low as \$10 monthly, or \$110 annually, but the Konfiansia membership is completely free.

Through the WEP, the CWA wants to empower and further help aspiring women entrepreneurs in the CNMI to generate their own locally-owned establishments and businesses.

The CWA was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth on April 13, 2011 and is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI was slapped with another gas price hike, just over a week since the last increase. This most recent increase is by far the largest increase seen in months at 20 cents.

As has become usual, Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead with a 20-cent gas price increase early yesterday morning. Shell Marianas is expected to follow suit today.

With this increase, Mobil now charges \$5.31 for a gallon of Extra fuel when it previously charged \$5.11. Mobil also increased its Supreme fuel from \$5.56 a gallon to \$5.76. Diesel also saw an increase from \$6.03 a gallon to \$6.18.

The CNMI has not seen back-to-back increases since early 2022. Gas prices were on a steady decline since July and only started to pick back up in December 2022.

The most recent increase was seen last Jan. 17 at 10 cents.

According to a 29-year-old local motorist, an increase in fuel prices would prove to be a struggle as she lives in Dan Dan and works in Capital Hill.

Another motorist, a 38-year-old mother of two, said an increase, even just 20 cents, will be hard on her as she has a child in elementary and in high school whom she per-

## Gas prices up another 20 cents

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead with a 20-cent gas price increase early yesterday morning.

sonally drops at their schools daily.

"I have a daughter in elementary and a son in high school. We live in San Vicente and I drop them to school every day because they don't feel comfortable riding the bus. As a mother, I want to make my kids comfortable but if prices continue to rise, I don't know if I can keep on doing it as I am a sole breadwinner," she said.

Another motorist is hoping the government can step in before gas prices get too heavy again.

"I know it's a long shot, but I'm hoping our government can provide some kind of subsidy or cost-share to at least keep gas prices down because we are all struggling right now in this economy and the current inflation. It's hard times out there," said the 28-year-old.

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# 2 public schools lead campus beautification projects

Before the Christmas break, the Da'ok Academy's and Marianas High School's Marianas School Pride clubs led their peers in campus beautification and campus cleanups. Under the supervision of MSP advisers, students were able to put in hours of volunteer work to beautify their campus.

On Dec. 23, 2022, Da'ok Academy students participated in a campuswide cleanup; volunteers picked up trash around the campus's tents, gates, and basketball court.

Joaquin Deleon Guerrero, a Da'ok Academy student, was named MSP's December Environmental Hero. Deleon Guerrero believes in keeping his campus clean so that students can enjoy school activities such as field day, basketball tournaments, and socializing with their peers.

"[I think that] the less trash

on the island, the greener our island will be," said Deleon Guerrero. He stated that the MSP Ambassadors exemplified the value of being responsible and respectful during the clean-up.

## Marianas High School

In collaboration with the Marianas High School Pride Club, MHS's MSP Ambassadors and volunteers worked together to beautify one of the busiest spots on our campus: the A-Building staircase. With 20 volunteers and 11 hours of work, both clubs worked together to design a staircase mural of the rainbow Pride flag to symbolize the efforts that have been and are currently being made to create safe spaces for the CNMI LG-BTQIA+ community.

With new friendships forged,

the MHS Pride Club and the MHS MSP Ambassadors pushed through the 11 hours to complete their staircase project. Both clubs collaborated in coordinating the placement of each color and working around spots of wet paint to get the job done. With leftover paint, the MSP Ambassadors are excited to collaborate on another beautification project!

The GCEA expresses gratitude to both public schools for spearheading these beautification efforts. Through these beautification projects, students demonstrated to others the importance of working together and committing to creating a better, cleaner campus for all students, teachers, and staff, not just the school.

Together, We Can!

For more information or to participate in the Marianas



Over 20 Da'ok Academy student volunteers picked up trash around the campus's tents, gates, and basketball court last Dec. 23, 2022. GCEA

School Pride, visit the GCEA website at [cnmieconomy.com](http://cnmieconomy.com) or contact the Council at [gceacnmi@gmail.com](mailto:gceacnmi@gmail.com). (GCEA)

## CUC

From Page 1

project so all the responsibilities and requirements to do the transport and all the logistics and coordination involved rest with the manufacturer.

He said this engine originally came from Germany.

Camacho said the manufacturer determined that because of the engine's weight and size, a larger portion of the unit will be disassembled so they can unload it at the Saipan port.

It will then be reassembled at Power Plant 1.

"They could not get it un-

loaded at the Saipan port as one unit. It's too heavy. If I remember, it's 76 tons," the executive director said.

The final determination, he said, was to disassemble a large portion of the engine and transport that in different components and then have the engine manufacturer reassemble

them at the power plant.

Camacho said the unit will be brought in on one vessel.

He said the foundation at the Power Plant 1 for the engine unit has already been prepared, although there are going to be some slight modifications to get the unit in place.

## HOPE

From Page 1

allows people to walk in, or if they're referred by the court, to get treatment. Those who go to HOPE are normally people who may not have a place to go to. They might otherwise be hopeless or their families are not in a position to keep them in their house because they don't know how to deal with addiction. HOPE provides these individuals a place to stay and actually gives them treatment," he said.

Hinds said the shutdown of HOPE would be a major blow to the community and would be harmful.

"HOPE shutting down would be a major blow to

the treatment community in the CNMI. The treatment community right now is very small as it is. The needs of people who have addiction issues or even mental health issues are probably not getting addressed the way that they should. The trickle-down effect of HOPE closing is that there's going to be people out on the streets, people who are not getting their addiction treated. Therefore, meth use will continue to rise, and because meth is never going away, it needs to be treated. Unless you want to see people who are just trying to deal with their addiction go to jail, we need to be expanding on a treatment program and not closing the ones we have,"

Hinds said.

Hinds noted that there are currently individuals under the Drug Court program and Mental Health Court program who are being treated at the HOPE facility and if it closes, it is uncertain what will happen to these individuals.

"For those with addiction issues, having a place like HOPE allows for placement in a place that is safe with no access to drugs, a place [where] they can actually get treatment. Right now, that might be going away. As far as the Drug Court program, we have people out there that are living there right now. The Mental Health Court has a participant that's actually living there right now. What happens to

those people if the HOPE center goes away? I have no idea. Do they go back to the streets? Do they go back to families that might not be able to accommodate them and be able to understand or deal with their issues? They would have to be given treatment by the Community Guidance Center but even CGC is overwhelmed right now. They don't have the resources that they need to be able to deal with the amount of people that need their help," he said.

Ultimately, Hinds said, closing down HOPE would be a disservice to the community and drug-related crimes will only continue to rise.

"I can only speak from the perspective of the Criminal Division here at the Office of the Attorney General, but the reason why [the CNMI government] should keep HOPE program open is because we see the number of cases that come in that stem from drug use, stem from addiction, and it's a lot. Probably majority of our cases have something to do with addiction and, if we close HOPE and overwhelm other treatment facilities on island, then we're doing a disservice to our community and we're only going to see crime rise," he said.

HOPE, which is locally funded under the Office of the Governor, has helped prevent about 80% of Drug Court participants from committing crimes again.

## MPLT

From Page 1

resignation letter in response to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' memorandum requesting all board members to resign. "It's a political appointment, so I understand," Pangelinan said.

Palacios issued the memorandum last Jan. 19, asking all members of boards and commissions who were politically appointed by the previous Torres administration to resign to pave the way for the appointment of new board and commission members.

Pangelinan submitted her courtesy resignation letter last Sunday, Jan. 22. The letter was delivered to the Office of the Governor the following morning, Monday.

## MAN

From Page 1

on Feb. 6, at 9am.

According to court documents, it was the child who spoke to a family member to discuss what has allegedly been happening to her at the hands of Cangco.

The victim allegedly stated that Cangco had molested her on multiple occasions, showed her his privates, and ogled her as she was changing.

The victim told a family member earlier this month, Jan. 4, and underwent a series of interviews with the Division of Youth Services and DPS investigators to tell her story. It was not stated in the police report why Cangco was only arrested recently.

According to court docu-

In her letter to Palacios, Pangelinan said that, although her term will end on Jan. 9, 2024, she fully understands the changes that he seeks and the need to pave for new members to serve under his leadership.

Pangelinan was serving her second six-year term.

She asked Palacios to accept her letter as a formal notification of her resignation as an MPLT trustee, in response to his request.

Pangelinan said her resignation takes effect on the date of her letter and that she is grateful to serve as one of the trustees representing Saipan for the past 10 years.

"I have all the confidence for its continued success under your administration," Pangelinan told the governor.

ments, the victim reportedly told DYS and DPS in a series of interviews that the first sexual abuse case happened when she was about 8 or 9 years old. She stated that she had slept over at a family member's home on Tinian when she was woken up by Cangco, who was allegedly fondling her.

The other instance, the minor said, was at a family outing at the beach when Cangco got into the water and touched her privates several times.

The victim also noted an instance when she got out of the shower and Cangco went to her bedroom and watched her get dressed despite her pleas.

She stated she was afraid of Cangco as he is known to have a temper, which has prohibited her from coming forward for so long.

ning, restoration and natural resources conservation; and safety and occupational health.

Assistant secretary Berger's and Gen. Berger's delegation included Maj. Gen. Mark Hashimoto, executive director, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, and Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, commander of Joint Region Marianas. (PR)



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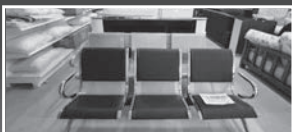
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# Registration for AMP summer internship is now open

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

After the success of their first internship program last year, the American Memorial Park announced the return of its Summer Fish & Feathers Internship Program for the year of 2023.

The program, made possible by the National Park Service and the Environment for the Americas, seeks to "...engage ethnically and racially diverse young professionals in natural resource careers." The internship will provide chosen participants with a stipend of

\$600 per week, plus housing upon its start in May 15, 2023 until Aug. 4, 2023. All chosen Fish & Feathers interns are required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination and must attend the mandatory pre-internship workshop from May 15 through 19, 2023.

The internship is only available for U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, aged 18 through 30. For veterans, the age limit reaches up to 35 years old. Other qualifications for the internship include the ability to hike long distances and conduct outdoor field op-

erations as part of a team and/or independently, any experience in giving presentations, the ability to learn new skills and transfer knowledge to participants, interest in learning fishing regulations and bird identification, and the ability to learn methods employed in fish and wildlife management. Intern prospects must have strong interpersonal, oral, listening, and written communication skills, and yet also be interested in learning new skills such as rafting, canoeing, and kayaking.

The duties of chosen interns will include reaching out to local communities through outreach and educational ac-

tivities in order to increase engagement in fishing and birdwatching, create new materials whether through social media, educational games/activities, signage, etc. and provide visitors with information about fish and birds at the site. Interns must also understand regulations regarding fishing and ethical birding and communicate this information to other participants, and will be expected to either establish or build upon fishing and birding programs at the National Parks Service site, as well as manage and maintain program equipment, and meet deadlines for Environment for the Americas program requirements.

Successful candidates will have a background and/or coursework in areas such as biology, fisheries and wildlife, ecology and aquaculture, communications and marketing, environmental science, recreation, and interpretation education, or even just a strong interest in the outdoors and experience in either or both fishing and birdwatching.

All interested individuals are encouraged to apply at <https://environmentamericas.org/diversity-internships/apply/> by Feb. 6 in order to be considered, and can contact Internships@environmentamericas.org if they have any questions.

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

#### TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TWO EQUIPMENT STORAGE/RENTAL WAREHOUSE BUILDINGS PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the construction of two (2) equipment storage/rental warehouse buildings at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-001-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at [wprater@cnmports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmports.com) or Ms. Sheri Llagas at [receptionist@cnmports.com](mailto:receptionist@cnmports.com).

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to [wprater@cnmports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmports.com) or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, January 27, 2023.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: January 4, 2023



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## BOARD OF PAROLE

P.O. Box 502641, SAIPAN, MP 96950-2641  
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 | FAX: (670) 664-3310  
Email: [govbop@pticom.com](mailto:govbop@pticom.com)



### TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

**Message:** The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios and the Honorable Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the CNMI Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992," hereby give "Official Notice" that a **Preliminary Hearing** is scheduled for **January 30, 2023 (Monday) at 9:00 am** at the CNMI Board of Parole Office Building 1216, located at Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. The following individual (s) will appear before the Board of Parole.

#### I. Parolee

1. TRAVIS CAMACHO Cr. Cs. No.: 20-0052B B.O.P No.: 22-010

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact the CNMI Board of Parole Office at telephone number (670) 664-3300.

/s/

Lucinda R. Selepeo  
Acting BOP Chairman

01/24/2023  
Date

## World Customs Day celebrated in Oceania

**SUVA, Fiji**—Customs administrations across the region and the world celebrated World Customs Day yesterday, which had the theme "Nurturing the next generation: promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs."

Here in the region, the Oceania Customs Organization also celebrated the graduation of 35 Customs officers from 15 countries with a Certificate IV in Customs Regional Administration from the Center for Customs and Excise Studies at Charles Sturt Univer-

sity in Canberra in partnership with the OCO.

"It is befitting that the graduation of our Customs officers, 17 of which are women is in the same week as the World Customs Day, which promotes knowledge sharing as well as professional pride in our work," OCO operations manager Irma Daphney Stone said. "These graduates are now included in our pool of experts who can conduct training in their own countries or in the region."

Last year, CCES and OCO offered the first ever accredited training for fundamental

Customs functions with 49 officers from 17 OCO member countries graduating with a Certificate III in Regional Customs, which was taught over eight months.

"This is an important milestone for the region as these courses are benchmarked against world standards in Customs training and the qualification is also recognized within the region and globally," Stone said.

The graduates are now skilled to train officers in their countries on border security, trade facilitation and revenue collection. (PR)

**GENERATION**  
RENEWABLE, INC



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Please call (670) 233-4673 for more information.



By GUNNERY SGT. RUBIN TAN  
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP BLAZ

The Marine Corps is reactivating a new base on Guam, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz. Why Guam?

The governments of Japan and the United States have committed to developing training areas in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. With the help of a large monetary contribution from the government of Japan, the construction of MCB Camp Blaz plays an essential role in strengthening the Marine Corps' posture in the Indo-Pacific region that is geographically distributed, operationally resilient

and politically sustainable. The U.S. territory holds immense Marine Corps history, dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. In 1901, Marine Barracks Guam was officially established in the Village of Sumay. During World War I, the first shots fired by Americans were done in Apra Harbor by U.S. Marines. On April 7, 1917, Marines from the barracks fired warning shots against German sailors from the interned ship, SMS *Cormoran*. This German ship, along with many other sunken artifacts, can still be seen off Naval Base Guam. In World War II, Marine Barracks Guam was forced to

Volunteer groups urged to apply for EFSP funds

The CNMI has been awarded federal funds made available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. The CNMI has been chosen to receive \$83,655 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs throughout the Commonwealth.

A CNMI board, made up of local community stakeholders, will determine how the funds awarded to the Commonwealth are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies. The local board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds (Phase 40).


Under the terms of the grant from the national board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination,

5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. The CNMI EFSP board recently distributed emergency food and shelter funds to Karidat Social Services, Salvation Army, Empty Vessel Ministries, Team Koka (Tinian), The Ohala Foundation (Tinian) and Marianas Food Bank. These agencies were responsible for providing thousands of meals and hundreds of nights of lodging and utility assistance. Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds should contact local board chair John Hirsh at John.Hirsh@red-cross.org or (670) 234-3459 for more information. The deadline for applications to be received is 5pm on Monday Feb. 13, 2023. (PR)

Why Guam? Reactivation of Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz

surrender to Imperial Japanese Forces on Dec. 10, 1941. The Marines returned with a vengeance when the III Amphibious Corps landed to retake the island on July 21, 1944. The island was declared secure on Aug. 10, 1944, and the Marine Barracks were reactivated June 4, 1946, remaining an integral part of the U.S. presence on the island until it was deactivated on Nov. 10, 1992. MCB Camp Blaz is named to honor the first indigenous Marine from the Marianas Is-

lands, or CHamorro Marine, Brig. Gen. Vincent T. "Ben" Garrido Blaz. Gene. Blaz is a World War II survivor. He earned his commission in the Marine Corps and in 1977, he became the first CHamorro Marine to attain the rank of brigadier general. He later served Guam as a delegate to the House of Representatives for almost a decade. MCB Camp Blaz is currently under construction and will be complete in the coming years.



## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan  
Tel. No. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315  
www.dcrm.gov.mp



# NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of January 27, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, Ltd.	08/05/2022 CRM-MS2022-0003	Cement Batching Plant & Hollow Block Facility	Kannat Tabla, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved 01/19/2023
2. Joaquina Agulto	11/14/2022 APC2022-0002	Construction of a Single Story, 2-Bedroom Residential House	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Under Review*
3. Department of Public Works (DPW)	11/17/2022 CRM-MS2022-0002	Kagman Transfer Station Facility	Kagman, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved 1/19/2023
4. Let's Go Tour Company dba Sea-Touch	12/28/2022 APC2022-0016	Sandbar Tours	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
5. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	12/29/2022 CRM-MD2022-0005	Temporary Beach Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	On Hold*
6. Public School System (PSS). Athletics Programs	01/09/2023 CRM-MD2023-0006	Interscholastic Outrigger Outrigger Canoe Races	Oleai, Saipan	Minor Development	Approved* 1/19/2023
7. Let's Go Tour Company dba Sea-Touch	01/10/2023 APC2022-0016	Kayak & Paddleboard	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
8. Westlake Motor, LLC	01/11/2023 APC2023-0019	Westlake Motor, LLC Rental Car Facility	San Roque, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Under Review*
9. Saipan Sunset Cruise, Inc.	01/24/2023 CRM-MD2023-0007	In-Water Maintenance	Garapan, Saipan	Minor Development	Under Review*
10. Beachfront Development, LLC	01/24/2023 APC2023-0020	Beachfront Development, LLC	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
11. Micronesia Resort, Inc. dba Kensington Hotel	01/26/2023 CRM-MD2023-0009	Kensington Hotel Bakery Kitchen Room	San Roque, Saipan	Minor Development	Under Review*
12. National Park Services, American Memorial Park (AMME)	01/26/2023 PRM23-029	AMME Emergency Sewer Line Repair	Garapan, Saipan	Temporary/Emergency	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



## NOTICE OF OPEN AUCTION

**2014 TOYOTA COROLLA 4DR SEDAN (Color: Red)**  
**114,957 Miles**  
**Condition: Fair**  
**MINIMUM BID: \$7,000.00**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres or his designee, for and on behalf of the Bank of Guam, will sell at auction the abovementioned vehicle to the highest bidder on January 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**  
1. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:  
a) withdraw the chattel mortgage (vehicle) listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such chattel mortgage (vehicle) is accepted;  
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and  
c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **\$7,000.00**. No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. **Bidders must be present, in person, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, 5962 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya on January 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to bid.** All bids less than \$7,000.00 will be rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a valid identification card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.

3. Payment. The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. **Personal checks/company checks are not accepted.** All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result in the forfeiture of the accepted bid. The next highest bidder (minimum \$7,000.00) may be awarded.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the term conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

DATED this 10th day of January 2023. /s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



## NOTICE OF OPEN AUCTION

**2017 MITSUBISHI LANCER 4 Door Sedan (Color: Silver)**  
**81,515 Miles**  
**Condition: Poor**  
**MINIMUM BID: \$5,000.00**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres or his designee, for and on behalf of the Bank of Guam, will sell at auction the abovementioned vehicle to the highest bidder on January 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**  
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b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and  
c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **\$5,000.00**. No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. **Bidders must be present, in person, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, 5962 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya on January 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to bid.** All bids less than \$5,000.00 will be rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a valid identification card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.

3. Payment. The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. **Personal checks/company checks are not accepted.** All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result in the forfeiture of the accepted bid. The next highest bidder (minimum \$5,000.00) may be awarded.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the term conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

DATED this 10th day of January 2023. /s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



## NOTICE OF SECOND OPEN AUCTION

**2018 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X2 TRUCK (Color: Gray)**  
**52,870 Miles**  
**Condition: Excellent**  
**MINIMUM BID: \$21,000.00**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres or his designee, for and on behalf of the Bank of Guam, will sell at auction the abovementioned vehicle to the highest bidder on January 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**  
1. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:  
a) withdraw the chattel mortgage (vehicle) listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such chattel mortgage (vehicle) is accepted;  
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and  
c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **\$21,000.00**. No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. **Bidders must be present, in person, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, 5962 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya on January 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to bid.** All bids less than \$21,000.00 will be rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a valid identification card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.

3. Payment. The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. **Personal checks/company checks are not accepted.** All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result in the forfeiture of the accepted bid. The next highest bidder (minimum \$21,000.00) may be awarded.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the term conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

DATED this 10th day of January 2023. /s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



# Opinion

Hafa Adail

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Pentagon missing billions in military equipment

**D**efense spending is vital to the ensure the nation's security. But that doesn't mean the Pentagon should be above budget scrutiny. Far from it, as a recent audit reveals.

Last week, the Government Accountability Office concluded that the Pentagon cannot account for at least \$220 billion in military gear given out to defense contractors. Nor is this a new phenomenon. The report found that the Defense Department has for at least four decades "struggled" to accurately inventory billions in "government furnished property," or GFP in bureaucratese.

Such equipment can include weapons, missiles, ammunition, torpedoes, component parts and other items. The materiel is sometimes turned over to contractors for maintenance or modification.

Over the years, however, Congress has done little to impose consequences for this slipshod oversight of taxpayer property. Defense officials have repeatedly vowed to make improvements but have yet to meet numerous deadlines to do so. A promise to have the situation remedied by 2005 turned into 2011, which turned into 2016, which turned into 2017, which turned into 2019, which turned into 2020, which is now 2026.

The GAO findings come on the heels of the Pentagon in November failing its fifth audit in a row. The agency could account for only 39% of its \$3.5 trillion in assets. As Connor Eichels of Responsible Statecraft wrote, "The U.S. military has the distinction of being the only U.S. government agency to have never passed a comprehensive audit."

The Pentagon benefits mightily from the reality that Republicans and a great many Democrats don't want to be seen as "soft on defense." There's good reason for this. Given the instability around the globe today, it's more vital than ever that the United States maintain a 21st century military capable of overwhelming potential enemies.

But cleaning up waste and inefficiencies at the Defense Department would make the U.S. military a stronger fighting machine.

"If the Department of Education couldn't account for more than 39% of its assets, conservatives would rightly be outraged about the rampant waste," Eric Boehm of Reason wrote last week. "If the Department of Transportation had misplaced more than \$220 billion of equipment, they would likely haul Secretary Pete Buttigieg before a committee to answer for the mess."

He's right, of course. House Republicans are looking to leverage the debt ceiling crisis to persuade the White House to agree to spending restraint down the road. They probably will fail, but at least they're bringing attention to the Beltway's spending addiction. They would be on much stronger ground, however, if they didn't exempt from such discussions a Pentagon that has no idea where \$220 billion in property has gone.

© 2023 Las Vegas Review-Journal



## The right wing pitched an absurd tantrum over M&M's. It worked

**I**f you're pondering what will be the stupidest right-wing freakout of 2023, you can probably stop now.

We're barely three weeks into the year, but the uproar over the personalities and images of M&M's candies seems well poised to top the list.

Most Americans—those who have, you know, a life—are probably unaware that Tucker Carlson and his far-right peanut gallery have been throwing a fit about a marketing makeover that Mars Wrigley, the private company that makes M&M's, gave this signature brand last year.

The company had long ago given the candies some personality, but not too much, giving them cartoon faces, arms, legs, etc. Last year it updated their looks, making the group more "inclusive" in the company's term, slightly changing their garb and endowing them with insouciant grins and smirks. Notably, the footwear of the two female-presenting M&M's was toned down.

The supposed de-feminization of those candies was too much for Carlson, who has covered it to a degree that suggests some sort of foot and/or candy fetish. On Monday, Mars Wrigley capitulated to the supposed uproar Carlson had ginned up and announced it would "take an indefinite pause from the spokescandies." They'll apparently disappear from its ad campaigns. The new face of M&M's will be entertainer Maya Rudolph.

Dutifully, Rudolph went on NBC's "Today" show to announce, "I'm thrilled to be working with M&M's ... and I feel like it's such an honor to be asked to be part of such a legendary brand's campaign."

If you think it's nauseating to see sausage being made, consider the making of a twee advertising campaign. Rudolph will be rolled out, apparently, in a Super Bowl ad.

It's hard to put one's finger on the cultural significance of Carlson's conniption or Mars Wrigley's retreat. The best way to think about it is to take note that one of the biggest companies in the food business thinks it has to march to a gang of nobodies, and recognize that American marketing culture is now in the hands of the most asinine members of our society.

We've been remarking on the tendency of powerful institutions to act like poltroons when confronted by bullies.

Most recently, the National Hockey League, which revels in the violently bullying behavior of its enforcement squads on the ice, couldn't stand up to Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, the tinpot thug of Florida politics.

When DeSantis copped an attitude about the NHL's plan to stage an inclusive job fair for women as well as Black, Latino and LGBTQ people in connection with its upcoming all-star game in Fort Lauderdale, the league pulled back and made the job fair open to all. Because, obviously, the nearly all-white league doesn't need any outreach to other communities.

It's not unusual for consumer companies to be sensitive about the image their brand-name products carry into the marketplace. In 2010, Gap redesigned its logo and sprung the result on cus-

By **MICHAEL HILTZIK**  
Los Angeles Times

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



tomers overnight, moving from its traditional white-lettering-on-blue-background design to a stripped-down, modernized version.

Design experts and customers alike ridiculed the change, and Gap went back to the original version six days later.

The M&M's case isn't like that. Mars has been giving its computer-animated mascots individualized personalities since the 1990s. Has anyone ever really cared?

Other than Carlson, that is. Almost exactly one year ago, Carlson went on a tear about the last M&M's remodeling. The changes were almost undetectable to the naked eye, but Carlson found something nefarious in changing the shoes of the brown M&M's candy from high heels to, well, lower heels.

"M&M's will not be satisfied until every last cartoon character is deeply unappealing and totally androgynous," Carlson groused. "Until the moment when you wouldn't want to have a drink with any one of them. That's the goal. When you're totally turned off, we've achieved equity. They've won."

This is really too stupid to analyze. What's mystifying is that Mars Wrigley detected a surge of consumer fury that it thinks crested in recent days or weeks. "We weren't sure if anyone would really notice," the company said in announcing its marketing move. "And we definitely didn't think it would break the internet. But now we get it—even a candy's shoes can be polarizing."

That was "the last thing M&M's wanted since we're all about bringing people together."

The company's conclusion is so unlikely that some people think it's all a sham—that it had long planned to install Rudolph in its ads and figured that fomenting a fake controversy was the best way to gin up interest. Anyone who detected a surge in internet-based ire at M&M's makeover, raise your hand. Anyone? Bueller?

Think of it as an effort to exploit the Streisand Effect. (That arose from a lawsuit the world-famous entertainer filed to have an aerial photo of her Malibu property removed from the internet as an invasion of privacy. Rather than secure her privacy, Barbra Streisand's lawsuit turned it into an internet sensation. It remains easily accessible online.)

But Mars Wrigley is playing with fire. Even appearing to surrender to Tucker Carlson inflates his ego and encourages him to inflate other trivialities into moral crusades.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## What's on your mind?

Who knew that such a simple question, “What’s on your mind?” could be so impactful? It blows my mind that four simple words laid out in a digital thought-bubble would be the key to unlocking so many vaults of personal information (with pictures no less) and unleashing such extensive wisdom, boundless humor and otherwise pent-up feelings between so many “friends” and, in many cases, on the world.

With a reported 2.96 billion active users and nearly 2 billion daily users, Facebook is a veritable Pantheon of all things that inspire and/or the modern-day reincarnation of Pandora’s Box, by definition a process that generates many complicated problems as a result of unwise interference in something.

Personally, I like Facebook in the same way I enjoy happy-hour beers at a bar: I know it’s not necessarily good for me and my time could always be better spent, but it can be a nice way to stay in touch with and reconnect with good friends and family. Conversely I dislike it in the same way: I tend to drink more than I should, say more than I normally would, and often confuse my true friends and family with many of the random sots who take turns with me in serving up free memes—I mean drinks and poopos (pun intended). But, it makes me feel good to have people who pay attention to and “like” me even if only superficially.

For those who aren’t on Facebook (I still know a few of you), “What’s on your mind?” is literally the basis for everything and anything that people post. Whether it’s a force for good or bad is up for debate (quite literally), but to engage or not to engage is the question. The same might be said of opinion columns (like this one) and the question is to read or not to read. I have heard it said that opinions are like...well...something that everyone has and that they all stink. It should be noted too that each of us has an inalienable right to share or not to share what we hold

inside as we choose. Just as importantly, nobody forces anyone to go sniffing around where they don’t feel comfortable or worse where they don’t belong. (\*Hint to reader: You can stop reading anytime you want.)

■ ■ ■

On a slight tangent, upon being given the opportunity to write this weekly column for the *Saipan Tribune*, its editor offered me the option to give it a specific heading or not (aside from the respective titles for each article, of course). I chose “My Glass Cup” as a cultural and linguistic nod to my Mortlockese side. In short, this is a term of endearment usually bestowed on those we love. Often used in references from parent to child (I think similar to how Chamorro people use *Kirida* or *Kiridu*), but also commonly used as reference between lovers. A girlfriend may reference a boyfriend as her glass cup and vice versa. The obvious symbolism is in the way a glass cup is handled with care—the manner in which we pick it up, hold on to it and gently set it down when letting it go. Beyond that, of course, is the notion of fragility or simply something we want to protect. Ultimately, my glass cup is a reference to someone (or something) precious... in this case, to me.

■ ■ ■

A few of my closest friends and I are not “so-called friends” on Facebook due to a combination of stubbornness and generally being stuck in our ways—creatures of “so-called principle” or habit, if you will—but I can say without hesitation that the foundational building blocks of what matters most in genuine friendships remain steadfastly intact in spite of Facebook and despite how old-fashioned and/or outdated we may be. As much as I appreciate Facebook for all the connections it makes possible, I wholeheartedly believe that people still need more face-to-face and less Facebook time. That is on my mind.

### MY GLASS CUP By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Jim Rayphand is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. and recently ventured into a startup fishing business.*

....

I read somewhere—likely and coincidentally on Facebook—about *Kintsukuroi* (“golden repair”), the Japanese cultural art of mending broken pottery or glass back together with gold—a metaphor for embracing flaws and imperfections or an ode to the passing of time, making beautiful something that was broken. With a little bit of Google research I found an interesting correlation with a biblical verse. God promises us that He “is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18), thus when we feel broken and our hearts are in pieces, God mends them back together with all the skill of a *Kintsukuroi* artist.

So these are some of the things on my mind and in real time. If I were to honestly post “*What’s on my mind*” at this very moment, I’d say my glass cup. Except I wouldn’t be talking about this so-called column, but rather my glass cup (figuratively speaking), the one with a lifetime of cracks and broken pieces spilling hot coffee on me one minute and iced tea the next. I am no *Kintsukuroi* artist and my time here is limited, but I would gladly give it all to mending (with gold) the cracks with branches extending in all directions like the lines in the palm with which I hold the one most dear.

## Martial law in the Philippines was no ‘golden age’

By VALMINA MAY and JOY SALES  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The numbers—70,000 detained, 35,000 tortured, 3,200 killed—represent the victims of President Ferdinand E. Marcos’ era of martial law, from 1972 to 1986. They mark one of the darkest periods in the Philippines’ history.

That darkness is enveloping the nation and its diaspora once again. In May 2022, 38 years after his family was exiled from the Philippines in the People Power Revolution, Bongbong Marcos Jr. was elected to a six-year presidential term alongside Vice President Sara Duterte, the daughter of former president and authoritarian Rodrigo Duterte.

Marcos and Duterte supporters romanticize martial law as a “golden age,” but many Filipinos—including Filipino Americans like us—reject this distortion of history.

This past year’s developments in the Philippines require Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike to preserve and reinforce our historical memories of dictatorship. Only through a mass movement that remembers the truth of the past can we confront the present-day threat of the Marcos-Duterte administration.

When Marcos Sr. rose to power in 1965, he posed as a populist but made unpopular decisions. He supported the U.S. war in Vietnam, which allowed for the increased use of U.S. military bases in the Philippines; he devalued the peso relative to the U.S. dollar, increasing prices of basic goods and services for working Filipinos; and he violently put down student protesters who opposed his plans to run for a third term.

In 1972, Marcos declared martial law to bypass the two-term presidential limit, and multiple sectors of Philippine society erupted and exercised their right to political dissent: workers and peasants, youth and students, women, and Indigenous peoples.

Because martial law outlawed protests, activists organized underground to fight for social and political change. Their demands ranged from the restoration of civil liberties to winning a socialist revolution. But they all wanted to end the Marcos dictator-

ship, and they worked to end human rights abuses, such as political detention and torture, and to halt infrastructure projects that violated Indigenous sovereignty, such as the Chico Dam project.

Mass arrests, especially in the first years of martial law, caused many activists to flee the country and settle in major cities like Los Angeles. This anti-Marcos diaspora met like-minded Filipino Americans who were politicized by the civil rights movement, the antiwar movement, and the labor activism of Filipino farmworkers who migrated as U.S. colonial subjects in the 1920s and ‘30s.

In the 1970s and ‘80s, Filipinos in the U.S. and their allies formed organizations such as the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino, National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in Philippines, Movement for a Free Philippines, and Friends of the Filipino People. They educated the broader U.S. public on the atrocities of the Marcos dictatorship, lobbied Congress to cut military assistance to Marcos, and raised funds to free political prisoners.

Presidents Nixon, Carter and Reagan supported Marcos; as part of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, Marcos helped the U.S. maintain its security interests in Southeast Asia, and in return, Marcos received military aid. But eventually he became too great a liability. In 1986, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos joined the People Power Revolution, flooding the streets of Manila to protest Marcos’ attempt to steal the election from Corazon Aquino. Outflanked, the Marcoses fled to Hawaii via a U.S. Air Force transport plane.

Nearly 40 years later, Marcos Sr.’s economic policies still hobble the Philippines. Widespread distrust in government, combined with widening class divisions, created the perfect conditions for the return of a fascist government via Rodrigo Duterte in 2016.

During his presidency, from 2016 to 2022, law enforcement and the military under Duterte killed upward of an estimated 30,000 Filipinos as part of a so-called Drug War. Victims of the Drug War are still waiting for the Philippine government to cooperate with the International Criminal Court and hold Duterte

accountable, while the current president Marcos has promised to continue his predecessor’s campaign of terror.

In 2017, Duterte declared martial law for 60 days in Muslim-majority Mindanao, a historically resource-rich and war-torn region with the highest rates of poverty in the Philippines and a 400-year history of resisting colonial forces.

Faced with another era of fascist rule in the Philippines, activists living abroad are working with organizations such as Bayan USA and Malaya Movement USA to channel the spirit of People Power. On Sept. 20, 2022, Filipino activists held a rally at L.A.’s Unidad Park in Historic Filipinotown to mark the 50th anniversary of the declaration of martial law, to commemorate those killed under the Marcos and Duterte regimes and to protest historical revisionism.

It is crucial at this time to speak out against censorship and share fact-based news, since Marcos Jr., following his father’s example, has taken an aggressive stance against press freedom. And it is especially important for Filipinos and our allies in the U.S. to put pressure on the Biden administration to end support of the current Marcos administration through the Philippine Human Rights Act.






The fact that the Filipino masses, with support from progressive media and the U.S. Congress, ousted Marcos Sr. in 1986 suggests that we have the power today to prevent another dark and bloody period.

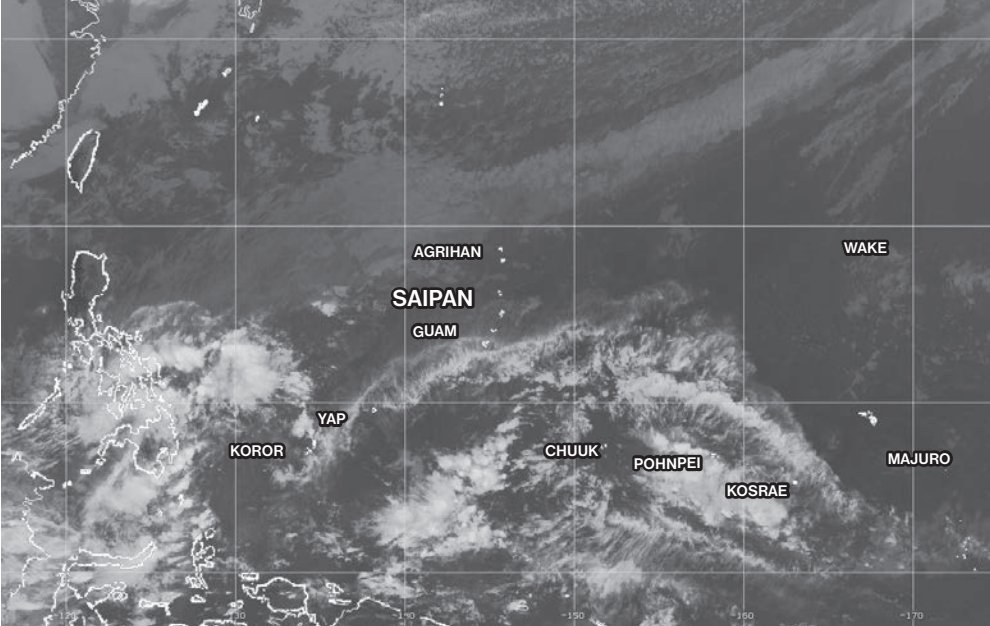
We have seen history repeat itself in a harrowing way with the return of the Marcoses to Malacañang Palace. But we could also see it repeat with another mass movement that draws on the legacy of people power to rebuild a genuinely democratic Philippines.

*Valmina May, an actor, playwright and activist living in Los Angeles, works with Malaya Movement. Joy Sales is assistant professor of Asian American studies at Cal State Los Angeles and serves on the L.A. secretariat of Malaya Movement. This article was produced in cooperation with Zócalo Public Square.*



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SARURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Light showers. Mostly cloudy.		Light showers. Increasing cloudiness.		Light showers. Broken clouds.		Light showers. Clearing skies.		Light rain. Sunny.	
76°	72°	78°	73	77°	72°	77°	73°	77°	73°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:35 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trade winds and a few light, pinprick showers prevail this morning. Strands of thick cirrus clouds are seen just south of Guam. Combined seas are between 5 and 7 feet, composed of trade swell, wind waves and a bit of NNE swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86/79 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85/79 °F	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85/79 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86/80 °F	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86/79 °F	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	87/76 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86/80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	06:39	11:31 PM	5:11 PM
Friday	10:54 AM	-	20:39 PM
Saturday	11:33 AM	12:24 PM	-
Sunday	-	1:16 PM	12:54 PM
Monday	-	2:10 AM	12:54 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 27°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	68° / 59°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°	
London	Partly Cloudy	39° / 32°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 50°	
Manila	Rain	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 54°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 65°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 36°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°	
Paris	Showers	41° / 28°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	50° / 43°	
Rome	Rain	59° / 46°	
Salem	Showers	41° / 28°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 45°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	39° / 34°	
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 34°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	43° / 33°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
11:04 PM	High Tide	1.50	
05:41 AM	Low Tide	0.11	
12:12 PM	High Tide	1.87	
6:56 PM	Low Tide	0.43	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
TW9308	3:30AM	7:10AM	2, 4	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:30AM+1	1, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

### INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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# GAIN condemns viral video of dog being clubbed

**GUAM**—A video surfaced on social media last Wednesday, Jan. 25, showing a young man clubbing a dog with a piece of wood, severely injuring and possibly killing the animal. Later that same day, the Guam

Police Department announced the arrest of the suspect and the cameraman involved in the crime.

The shocking video has sparked widespread condemnation and calls for justice.

"I've received calls and messages all day. People are outraged," said Gabe Baker, a board member of Guam Animals In Need.

"The video is not just disturbing, it's sickening.

These monsters thought it was funny to viciously beat a trusting dog," said Baker. "We can't unsee it, but we can come together to speak out against this violence. We must make sure that justice

is served for this innocent animal and for the entire community."

Baker also emphasized the need to hold dangerous animal abusers accountable, due to the link between animal abuse and other forms of violence. "Animal abusers are not just a threat to society as a whole," said Baker. "Research shows that people who abuse animals are far more likely to also abuse humans, especially children and partners. We need to hold them accountable for

their actions, not only for the welfare of animals, but also for the safety of families and the community."

GAIN urges anyone with additional information about this crime to report it to the authorities. The organization also encourages anyone who sees or suspects other incidents of animal abuse to report it immediately. By reporting animal abuse, the public can play a vital role in protecting animals and improving safety in our community." (GAIN)

## Proposed national marine sanctuaries offer path to indigenous-led ocean conservation

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The United States can move closer to its goal of supporting locally led and locally designed conservation efforts and honoring Tribal sovereignty and supporting the priorities of Tribal Nations by approving five new Indigenous-led marine sanctuaries, according to a new report co-authored by Angelo Villagomez from the Center for American Progress.

The report focuses on five sites with various levels of Indigenous leadership and engagement that have already been placed into consideration for possible designation as national marine sanctuaries. These areas have the potential to advance not only the Biden administration's America the Beautiful initiative but also the environmental justice priorities underscored in the Inflation Reduction Act. They would be some of the first national marine sanctuaries to be led and potentially co-managed by Indigenous communities and governments.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### 4.7-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 8:27am on Jan. 26, 2023, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred 20.216°N 146.196°E of the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)

#### Youth Congress session on Saturday

The 1st Day, 11th Regular Session of the 18th CNMI Youth Congress is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023, at 11am in the House of Representatives chamber. (PR)

## Summer Internship in the Outdoors



Join us this summer for an internship teaching others about fishing and birdwatching at American Memorial Park or War in the Pacific National Historical Park. These 12-week positions are for 18 - 30 year olds, paid and include transportation to a workshop in the United States in May, 2023.

For more information and to apply, visit [environmentamericas.org/diversity-internships](https://environmentamericas.org/diversity-internships)

Questions?  
Write us at [internships@environmentamericas.org](mailto:internships@environmentamericas.org)

These sites include:

■ Alaḡum Kanuux' National Marine Sanctuary

■ Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

■ Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Sanctuary

■ Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary

■ Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary

The report also urges the Biden administration to take the following steps to center Indigenous voices in the designation for new national marine sanctuaries:

■ Begin, advance, and complete designation for all five proposed sanctuaries in consultation with local communities.

■ Engage with Indigenous communities and explore co-

management opportunities.

■ Ensure commercial, recreational, and traditional fishing continue to be regulated under state and federal law.

■ Provide adequate funds to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office

of National Marine Sanctuaries.

■ Establish a pre-designation advisory council that would eventually form the official sanctuary advisory council after designation.

■ Establish protocols for Indigenous naming practices. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
P.O. BOX 501370  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eighteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. via zoom. Please see the link below.

### AGENDA<sup>1</sup>

#### I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order – Pro Tem Chair
2. Roll Call
3. Election of Officers
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
  - a. April 7, 2022 Regular Board meeting
  - b. August 17, 2022 Special Board meeting
  - c. September 26, 2022 Special Board meeting
  - d. October 13, 2022 Special Board meeting

#### II. Public Comments<sup>2</sup>

#### III. Reports

1. Chair's Report
2. Committee Reports
  - a. CIP
  - b. FPA
  - c. ISA
  - d. LIA
  - e. SICPP
  - f. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
  - a. Financial Status Reports
    - i. Federal
    - ii. Local
  - b. Head Start Program
  - c. Others

#### IV. Unfinished Business

#### V. New Business

1. Early Intervention Annual Performance Report
2. Early Head Start Disaster Assistance Grant 09ND000029 Low-Cost Extension Request
3. Head Start Disaster Assistance Grant 09ND000031 Low-Cost Extension Request
4. Accountability Report System Proposed Policy
5. 2023 Counselors Week Proclamation – February 6-10, 2023
6. 2023 Pupil Transportation Week Proclamation – February 13-17, 2023
7. Special Education Annual Performance Report
8. Certification & Licensure Matter
  - a. CLO Report No. 2023-18-01

#### VI. Executive Session<sup>3</sup>

1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel
3. Other matters

#### VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

#### VIII. Adjournment

<sup>1</sup>Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/91467141274?pwd=bmtlRWY0aEpGdUk5QnZlZS5lbnRlUT09>

Meeting ID: 914 6714 1274  
Passcode: 558063

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments. comments  
<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW23-ITB NO.: 42300029

SUBMISSION DATE: February 15, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

#### "Flore Rosa St. Road and Drainage Improvement Project"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **January 13, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 02, 2023** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 09, 2023** to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MICHAEL A. BORJA  
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID DPW23-ITB NO. 42300036

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 03, 2023 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

#### "Commercial office space for the Secretary's office, Division of Building Safety Code and Division of Technical Services of the Department of Public Works"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS, ANTHONY A. CAMACHO AT (670) 234-9828

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO  
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.



# Business

## Chamber in 2023: Take heed of serious issues

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While hopeful that the new year will continue to bring hope to the business community as 2022 did, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero reminded members “to take heed of the serious issues” besetting the CNMI.

Speaking before the 2022 “Bowties & Diamonds” Business Person of the Year annual fundraiser gala last Saturday night at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan’s Hibiscus Hall, Guerrero said it’s no secret the tough financial challenges facing the new administration of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang.

“[These] shouldn’t be ignored or taken lightly by any individual and businesses. Because we’ve all seen the ripple effects upon our community by the government and financial crisis... [While we] should all take heed of the serious issues before us, it’s very important to avoid getting caught up in unproductive energies and distract it from our priorities,” said Guerrero.

The Chamber president said unfortunately the light at the end of the tunnel is still far off as the CNMI’s main economic driver—the tourism industry—is not expected to return to pre-COVID-19 levels until late 2024 or later.



Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo swears in the new officers of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during its 2022 “Bowties & Diamonds” Business Person of the Year annual fundraiser gala last Saturday night at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan’s Hibiscus Hall.

“So now more than ever, we need to address the fact that we still do not have a sufficient workforce to support the return to pre-COVID tourism levels. We must work closely with Gov. Palacios and [Delegate Geregorio Kilili C. Sablan] to do a few things like pursue specific changes to U.S. immigration laws and regulations that affect our access to necessary foreign labor,” he said.

Tweaks Guerrero and the

Chamber have in mind is one similar to Guam’s that would finally enable the CNMI governor instead of the U.S. Department of Labor to issue temporary recertification for CW-1 visa applications.

Another in the Chamber’s laundry list is amending the CW-1 touchback provision to better suit the CNMI’s unique circumstances.

“Equally important, we must continue to work with

and support NMTEch and [the Northern Marianas College], and CNMI Department of Labor with all the programs they have and partner in implementing and building up our local workforce.”

At the same time, Guerrero said the CNMI should improve its tourism product for travelers looking to check out the islands.

“Why would we want visitors to come to our islands with



MARK RABAGO  
Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero delivers his address at the 2022 “Bowties & Diamonds” Business Person of the Year annual fundraiser gala last Saturday night at Crowne Plaza’s Hibiscus Hall.

the calmness of paradise only for them to see blighted buildings, facilities in such disrepair, trash in beaches, parks, and in our villages. This is not how I see my home and I’m sure all of you feel the same,” he said.

Alongside the tourism-unfriendly sites of the islands, Guerrero also said one of the biggest complaints from visitor exit surveys for many years is that tourists are not able to “see, feel, hear, and experience the local cultures of the CNMI”

“As a Chamber we must continue to support the promotion of Chamorro and Carolinian cultures. The Hafadai and Tirow Pledge program established in 2021 by the Chamber and the Marianas Visitors Authority, while yet to be funded, has much to grow among Chamber members themselves. So please, please continue to adopt the Hafadai and Tirow spirit ingraining it in your everyday homes and businesses.”

For 2023, Guerrero said the Chamber is ready to roll up its sleeves and help the new administration provide solutions to the aforementioned challenges.

“The Chamber truly looks forward to working diligently with Gov. Palacios, Lt. Gov. Apatang, and their administration, the Legislature, congressman Kilili, mayor Camacho, and all stakeholders to push through the challenges to be able to identify what can be promising times ahead.

Aside from Guerrero, also sworn in to fresh terms in the Chamber were vice president Joshua Wise of PHI Pharmacy, treasurer Janice Tenorio of IT&E, secretary Donna Krum of Parade Dental Spa, and board members Alex Sablan of Tan Holdings, Velma Palacios of IT&E, Ron Smith of Angil Design, and John Arroyo of Bank of Saipan.

Brad Rusala and Marcia Calvo serves as the event’s emcees.

## Donald Trump to be allowed back on Facebook after 2-year ban

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and JILL COLVIN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook parent Meta said Wednesday it will restore former President Donald Trump’s personal account in the coming weeks, ending a two-year suspension it imposed in the wake of the Jan. 6 insurrection.

The company said in a blog post it is adding “new guardrails” to ensure there are no “repeat offenders” who violate its rules, even if they are political candidates or world leaders.

“The public should be able to hear what their politicians are saying — the good, the bad and the ugly — so that they can make informed choices at the ballot box,” wrote Nick Clegg, Meta’s vice president of global affairs.

Clegg added that when there is a “clear risk” to real-world harm, Meta will intervene.

“In the event that Mr. Trump posts further violating content, the content will be removed and he will be suspended for

between one month and two years, depending on the severity of the violation,” he wrote. Facebook suspended Trump on Jan. 7, 2021, for praising people engaged in violent acts at the Capitol a day earlier. But the company had resisted earlier calls — including from its own employees—to remove Trump’s account.

Meta said Trump’s accounts will be restored “in the coming weeks” on both Facebook and Instagram. Banned from mainstream social media, Trump has been relying on Truth Social, which he launched after being blocked from Twitter.

Facebook is not only the world’s largest social media site, but had been a crucial source of fundraising revenue for Trump’s campaigns, which spent millions of dollars on the company’s ads in 2016 and 2020. The move, which comes as Trump is ramping up his third run for the White House, will not only allow Trump to communicate directly with his 34 million followers — dramatically more

than the 4.8 million who currently follow him on Truth Social — but will also allow him to resume direct fundraising. During the suspension, his supporters were able to raise money for him, but couldn’t run ads directly from him or in his voice.

Responding to the news, Trump blasted Facebook’s original decision to suspend his account as he praised Truth Social.

“FACEBOOK, which has lost Billions of Dollars in value since “deplatforming” your favorite President, me, has just announced that they are reinstating my account. Such a thing should never again happen to a sitting President, or anybody else who is not deserving of retribution!” he wrote.

Other social media companies, including Snapchat, where he remains suspended, also kicked him off their platforms following the insurrection. He was recently reinstated on Twitter after Elon Musk took over the company. He has not tweeted yet.

## UN forecasts fall in global economic growth to 1.9% in 2023

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations forecast Wednesday that global economic growth will fall significantly to 1.9% this year as a result of the food and energy crisis sparked by the war in Ukraine, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, persistently high inflation and the climate emergency.

Painting a gloomy and uncertain economic outlook, the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs said the current global economic slowdown “cuts across both developed and developing countries, with many facing risks of recession in 2023.”

“A broad-based and severe slowdown of the global economy looms large amid high inflation, aggressive monetary tightening, and heightened uncertainties,” U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a foreword to the 178-page report.

The report said this year’s 1.9% economic growth forecast — down from an estimated 3% in 2022 — is one of the lowest growth rates in

recent decades. But it projects a moderate pick-up to 2.7% in 2024 if inflation gradually abates and economic headwinds start to subside.

In its annual report earlier this month, the World Bank which lends money to poorer countries for development projects, cut its growth forecast nearly in half, from its previous projection of 3% to just 1.7%.

The International Monetary Fund, which provides loans to needy countries, projected in October that global growth would slow from 6% in 2021 to 3.2% in 2022 and 2.7% in 2023. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said at last week’s World Economic Forum in Davos that 2023 will be a difficult year, but stuck by the projection and said “we don’t expect a global recession.”

Shantanu Mukherjee, director of the economic analysis and policy division of the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, highlighted the growing in-

come inequality in the world at a news conference launching the report.

Between 2019 and 2021, he said, average incomes for the top 10% rose by 1.2% while the incomes of the lowest 40% fell by 0.5%.

“The top 10% now earns on average over 42 times what the lowest percentiles” earn, Mukherjee said.

According to the U.N. report, this year “growth momentum has weakened in the United States, the European Union and other developed economies, adversely affecting the rest of the world economy.”

In the United States, GDP is projected to expand by only 0.4% in 2023 after estimated growth of 1.8% in 2022, the U.N. said. And many European countries are projected to experience “a mild recession” with the war in Ukraine heading into its second year on Feb. 14, high energy costs, and inflation and tighter financial conditions depressing household consumption and investment.



# Nation

## Suspect in Half Moon Bay farm killings faces 7 murder counts

**HALF MOON BAY, Calif.** (AP)—A farmworker accused of killing seven people in back-to-back shootings at two Northern California mushroom farms was charged Wednesday with seven counts of murder and one of attempted murder.

Chunli Zhao, 66, was set to make his first court appearance Wednesday but it was postponed until Feb. 16, San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said. His two attorneys did not immediately respond to calls and emails seeking comment.

Wagstaffe, speaking outside the courthouse, declined to share any additional details on a motive in the killing of Zhao's current and former coworkers, saying he wanted to keep the details out of the public eye to ensure a fair trial. Sheriff's officials have said it was workplace violence.

It was California's third mass shooting in eight days, and the largest in San Mateo County's history, Wagstaffe said. It followed the killing of 11 people in the Los Angeles area amid Lunar New Year celebrations Saturday.

## Dems vote to give states more time on new primary calendar

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A Democratic National Committee panel voted Wednesday to give New Hampshire and Georgia more time to make changes that would allow both to be part of a revamped group of five states leading off the party's presidential primary starting next year.

But even as they voted 25-0 to extend the compliance deadline until June 3, members of the DNC rules committee complained about New Hampshire's ongoing feud with the national party because the new calendar would cost it the chance to hold the nation's first primary.

The fight underscores how the effort to shake up the Democratic presidential primary could turn increasingly bitter, even at a time when the party will be counting on staying unified as it tries to hold the White House and Senate in 2024.

The DNC rules committee voted last month to approve a plan championed by President Joe Biden that would strip Iowa's caucus of its traditional post leading off the primary and replace it with South Carolina, which would open primary voting on Feb. 3. New Hampshire and Nevada would hold primaries together three days later, with Georgia's primary coming Feb. 13 and Michigan's two

Authorities believe Zhao acted alone Monday when he entered a mushroom farm where he worked in Half Moon Bay, shot and killed four people and seriously wounded a fifth. He then drove to a nearby farm where he worked previously and killed three more people, said Eamonn Allen, a sheriff's spokesperson.

Erlin Ortiz and her sister, Miriam Ortiz, pack mushrooms at the farm where Zhao is accused of killing four people.

They were sitting in their car after their shift when they saw Zhao, who was about 40 feet (12 meters) away, pull a gun from a backpack, shout something in Mandarin to a fellow Chinese farmworker and then shoot the man, they told the Bay Area News Group.

Zhao then shot a second worker, and gunned down the first worker who had gotten to his feet and tried to run away, Erlin Ortiz said.

"He was super red and very angry," she said of Zhao.

Shocked and horrified, Miriam Ortiz's husband, who was behind the wheel, started the car and prepared to drive away.

Zhao turned to look at them,

then hopped onto a forklift and headed toward an encampment on the farm where he and the sisters lived. His demeanor had changed, they said.

"He was laughing, he was smiling," Erlin Ortiz said. "We saw him get on the forklift, and when he turned to see us, he was making fun of the situation."

Erlin Ortiz said Zhao, who grew onions for himself and his wife in a little garden plot, would wave and greet them

but always seemed serious.

The charges against Zhao include additional allegations that could result in the death penalty or life in prison without parole, though Gov. Gavin Newsom has issued a moratorium on executions. Among those allegations are that Zhao used a gun, caused great bodily injury and killed multiple people.

The coroner's office named six of the victims: Zhishen

Liu, 73, of San Francisco; Marciano Martinez Jimenez, 50, of Moss Beach, California; Aixiang Zhang, 74, of San Francisco; Qizhong Cheng, 66, of Half Moon Bay; Jingzhi Lu, 64, of Half Moon Bay; and Yetao Bing, 43, whose hometown was unknown. The charging documents identify Jose Romero Perez as the other person killed and Pedro Romero Perez as the eighth victim, who survived the


shooting.

Officials have said some of the people killed were migrant workers. Some people were shot in trailers on the property, Wagstaffe said.

Servando Martinez Jimenez said his brother Marciano Martinez Jimenez, one of the victims, was a delivery person and manager at one of the farms. He never mentioned Zhao or said anything about problems with other workers.

## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

BORN TO LIFE: OCTOBER 17, 1964 CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE: FEBRUARY 7, 2022



# †EDDIE JONES CASTRO

As we commemorate the 1st anniversary of our beloved †Eddie in his passing into eternal Life we invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers.

Daily Mass intentions will be offered beginning **January 30th – February 7th, 2023** at San Roque Church, Monday – Friday at 6:00pm; on Saturday, 6:00pm and Sunday at 8:00am at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag.

On the final day, **February 7, 2023**, the Holy Rosary will be recited at 5:30pm followed by Eucharistic Celebration at 6:00pm at San Roque Church.

Dinner will follow at our family residence in San Roque.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase & Olomwaay

From

**ROSA A. OMAR – CASTRO,**  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY



# Off The Wall

## Member of Congress reads AI-generated speech on the floor

**BOSTON (AP)**—When U.S. Rep. Jake Auchincloss decided to deliver a speech on a bill that would create a U.S.-Israel artificial intelligence center, he opted to let the AI do the talking.

The brief two-paragraph speech read by the Massachusetts Democrat on the floor of the U.S. House on Wednesday was generated by the online AI chatbot ChatGPT. His staff said they believe it's the first time an AI-written speech was read in Congress.

Auchincloss said he prompted the system in part to "write 100 words to deliver on the floor of the House of Representatives" about the legislation. Auchincloss said he had to refine the prompt several

times to produce the text he ultimately read.

The bill, which Auchincloss is refining, would establish a joint U.S.-Israel AI Center in the United States to serve as a hub for AI research and development in the public, private and education sectors.

Auchincloss said part of the decision to read a ChatGPT-generated text was to help spur debate on AI and the challenges and opportunities created by it. He said he doesn't want to see a repeat of the advent of social media, which started small and ballooned faster than Congress could react.

"I'm the youngest parent in the Democratic caucus, AI is going to be part of my life and it could be a general purpose tech-

nology for my children," said Auchincloss, 34.

The release of ChatGPT and other AI programs available on the internet is already posing a challenge for teachers who must now grapple with the possibility of students handing in AI-generated essays.

Researchers also worry AI chatbots could help turbocharge efforts to spread misinformation and propaganda.

OpenAI, the nonprofit that created ChatGPT, has acknowledged on its website that ChatGPT "can occasionally produce incorrect answers" and that its responses will sometimes be misleading as a result of how it learns. It recommends users check whether responses are accurate or not,

## Burning German 'ghost train' stopped near Austria

**BERLIN (AP)**—Authorities in southern Germany say efforts to put out a fire on a train turned into a spectacular chase early Friday after the driverless diesel engine began taking off toward Austria of its own accord.

Firefighters had been called to put out a train blaze near the village of Strass at about 3 a.m. (0200 GMT), the Bavarian Red

Cross said. But shortly before they arrived the engine started moving downhill on the sloping track, picking up speed as it rolled several kilometers (miles) toward the town of Freilassing.

A video posted online by the Freilassing Volunteer Firefighting Company showed flames and smoke pouring from the train as it

swept through the town.

With firefighters in hot pursuit, railway officials managed to switch the "ghost train" onto a side track near Freilassing station where it was stopped by a buffer before it could cross the border. The fire was extinguished and nobody was injured, the Bavarian Red Cross said in a statement.

## Results out in girl's request for DNA evidence of Santa

**CUMBERLAND, R.I. (AP)**—The Rhode Island Department of Health says it was not able "to definitively confirm or refute the presence of Santa" in a young girl's home after she requested to have a partially eaten cookie and a couple of gnawed-on carrot sticks tested for DNA to see if Santa Claus is real.

The department tweeted on Monday that "we all agree that something magical may be at play."

The department said it found no complete matches to anyone in the Combined DNA Index System but said there was a partial match "to a 1947 case centered around 34th Street in New York City," referring to the movie "Miracle on 34th Street." It said it would need more DNA samples "from other known Santa encounters to make a definitive match."

The "good news" is that the lab did find the presence of

DNA closely matching Rangifer tarandus, known as reindeer, when testing the carrots, the department said.

The girl, a Cumberland resident, had sent the cookie and carrot sticks to the town's police department to ask if they can be tested for DNA, Chief Matthew Benson said on Friday. Benson forwarded the "evidence" to the state's Department of Health-Forensic Sciences unit for analysis.

## School hopes lights can finally shut off after glitch

**WILBRAHAM, Mass. (AP)**—It's hoped that the lights at a Massachusetts high school will be able to be turned off by the end of next month, about a year-and-a-half after a computer glitch kept the lights on night and day, officials say.

The unusual challenge faced by Minnechaug Regional High School, located in the western Massachusetts town of Wilbraham, means there has been no way to turn the lights off short of unscrewing bulbs or flipping circuit breakers that leave entire sections of the building in the dark.

"We are very much aware this is costing taxpayers a significant amount of money," Aaron Osborne, an assistant superintendent of finance at

Hampden-Wilbraham Regional Schools, told NBC News. "And we have been doing everything we can to get this problem solved."

Osborne estimated the extra cost to the district for the nearly 7,000 lights in the 248,000-square-foot building is in the thousands of dollars a month, but "not in the tens of thousands."

The school serves about 1,200 students from the towns of Wilbraham and Hampden.

The situation has drawn the attention of Saturday Night Live, which mentioned the lights-on challenge during the Weekend Update segment of its Jan. 21 broadcast.

In a November 2021 story, the school's student newspaper,

The Smoke Signal, reported that a computer server that controlled what was supposed to be a lighting system designed to save power, failed in August 2021 and could not be fixed.

The school reached out to the original installer and found the company had changed hands several times. Global supply chain issues kept delaying efforts to get the parts needed to fix the system.

In a Monday email, Osborne said officials had thought the repair could cost \$1.2 million, which would have entirely replaced the system. Now the actual cost of fixing the system by replacing lighting panels and the server, while updating the software, will be between \$75,000 and \$80,000.

# Science & Technology

## Software running your car—the pros and cons

By KRISTIN V. SHAW  
EDMUNDS

More and more vehicles will be run top to bottom by software, not hardware. In some cases, the future is already here. What will it be like for shoppers when vehicles are dominated by bits and bytes instead of gears and gaskets? Edmunds' experts break down what's in store.

### SOFTWARE DEFINED VEHICLES

The phrase "software-defined vehicle" is an industry term used to clarify the difference between a traditional car that is enhanced by technology and one that is run by technology.

While cars of the past 20 years have gained touchscreens and have plenty of engine- and safety-related computing power, those software features are largely stuck in time once the car rolls off the assembly line. The future holds that nearly every vehicle feature will be controlled by software, which offer the potential to improve features over time.

Another key difference is updatability. Consider the smartphone. Their manufacturers seamlessly update their software on a regular basis to fix bugs and breaches and add functionality. Software-defined vehicles work

similarly. They have high-speed Wi-Fi and cellular connections that automakers use to send out software updates via the cloud to its vehicles. There's no need for owners to bring their vehicles to a dealership or service center.

### A NEW DAY AND A NEW FEATURE FOR YOUR CAR

Tesla is a pioneer of adding software-based features to its vehicles. Over the years it has introduced improvements to the touchscreen interfaces and added new features such as video games. It's even issued updates that enhance vehicle performance. Startup EV brands Lucid and Rivian are following suit by employing

over-the-air updates to give their vehicles new features and functions and issue bug fixes.

Software also allows for the introduction of features that wouldn't have been possible in the past. Genesis, Hyundai's luxury arm, is using facial recognition and fingerprint scanning with its new all-electric GV60 crossover. The physical key is required to set up both functions, but after that the owner can basically operate the car as easily as a smartphone.

Established companies are jumping in as well. Last summer, Ford used software to enable its BlueCruise hands-free driving system in tens of thousands of F-150s and Mustang Mach-Es. The vehicles had the hardware for the system already installed; the over-the-air update made it complete. It applied to the cars wirelessly, without the need for a dealer visit.

Maintenance is another potential advantage. These highly digital vehicles can monitor preventive and predictive maintenance and even diagnose problems from afar. It takes the guesswork out of what could go wrong and what needs to be adjusted without a visit to a mechanic shop or dealership.

### THE DOWNSIDE OF THIS NEW TECH

Software allows new features that wouldn't have been possible in the past. But sometimes these features aren't so great in practice. Tesla and Rivian, for example, use touchscreen-based controls to direct the flow of the cabin's air vents. It seems neat in theory but turns out to be a finicky and distracting process in real-world driving. Old-school air vents that you adjust by hand just work better.

Software crashes and glitches are also problematic. Issues that PC users are all too familiar with can crop up in cars. It might be a touchscreen that goes blank and is inoperable while driving, glitchy operation of certain controls, or advanced driver assist features that aren't as fully vetted as they should be before being added to vehicles.

The risks of software crashes and privacy breaches are real issues. It's not outside the realm of possibility for someone with malicious intentions to take over the operation of a car and cause damage. Also, some experts are both applauding the technology and advising caution as it relates to personal data privacy: the more data collected from drivers, the more potential for hacking.

### Science Matters

## Perovskite: Remember that name

Materials using the mineral perovskite are inspiring hopes that they could be used in radically new optical-electronic devices — if some difficult problems can be resolved.

**Perovskite**  
Mineral discovered in Ural Mountains; contains calcium titanium oxide crystals

A natural semiconductor useful in electronic applications

Named after the Russian mineralogist Lev Perovskiy (1792-1856)

**Adjustable materials**

Metal halide perovskites have optical properties that can be tuned by adjusting electric charge, temperature, pressure or chemicals

**Perovskite lasers and LEDs**

**Solar cells**

**Medical imaging**

**Light-detecting retinal implant**

**Smart sensor wristband**

### Two worries to resolve

**Long term stability** of perovskite materials is worse than that of silicon-based devices

**Toxic lead in perovskite** means devices have to be sealed to prevent leaks; fabrication and disposal and recycling must be done safely

Source: He Dong and Chenxin Ran of Northwestern Polytechnical University (Xi'an, China); Ron Lavinski crystal photo. Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service © 2023 TNS



# Life & Style

## Justin Bieber sells rights to 'Baby,' rest of music catalog

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Justin Bieber's record-breaking pop hits from "Baby" to "Sorry" are no longer his after the superstar sold the rights to all his early career music.

The Canadian-American pop star's six albums, including his most recent album "Justice," are part of the massive catalog sale deal with Hipgnosis, a U.K.-based music investment company.

Top artists like Sting, Bob Dylan and Shakira have in recent years sold rights to their catalogs for massive sums, but at 28 Bieber is the

youngest superstar singer to do so. Hipgnosis acquired Shakira's catalog in 2018.

Bieber's publishing copyrights, songwriter's ownership, master recordings and all rights of his entire catalog of recordings made through 2021 are now owned by Hipgnosis. That covers 290 titles, including hits like "Peaches" "Beauty and the Beat" music that Bieber has been releasing since he was 13.

The deal's financial details have not been disclosed, but Billboard Magazine reports that the sale was

worth an estimated \$200 million.

"Justin is truly a once in a generation artist and that is reflected and acknowledged by the magnitude of this deal," Scooter Braun, Bieber's longtime manager, said in a statement Tuesday.

All of Bieber's six official studio albums have been certified platinum or multiplatinum by the Recording Industry Association of America,



Bieber

and he's recorded 33 singles that have been designated platinum or multi-platinum globally. A song or album that sells more than a million copies receives platinum certification, while works

that surpass two million sales become multiplatinum.

Bieber is the eighth most listened to artist in the world on Spotify, with 69 million monthly listeners and

over 30 billion streams. His video for "Baby" has been streamed more than 2.9 billion times on YouTube.

## Paris Hilton becomes a mom



Paris Hilton, left, and Carter Reum appear at the LACMA Art + Film Gala in Los Angeles on Nov. 6, 2021. Hilton has welcomed her first child, with her husband Reum.

Socialite and reality TV star Paris Hilton has welcomed her first child with her husband, venture capitalist Carter Reum.

Hilton took to Instagram on Tuesday and posted a photo that seems to show the 41-year-old new mom holding her baby boy's tiny hand.

"You are already loved beyond words," she wrote, adding a blue heart emoji.

The heiress did not say when her baby was born or provide further details, including a name.

"It's always been my dream to be a mother and I'm so happy that Carter and I found each other. We are so excited

to start our family together and our hearts are exploding with love for our baby boy," she told People magazine.

The baby boy is Hilton's first child, while Reum shares a 10-year-old daughter with reality star Laura Bellizzi.

Best wishes flooded in from Hilton's famous friends, including Kim Kardashian, Chrissy Teigen, Lindsay Lohan, Demi Lovato, Rosario Dawson, Poppy Delevingne, Ashley Tisdale, Naomi Campbell and Heidi Klum.

Teigen summed up their best wishes with: "Congratulations so happy for you both!!" (AP)

## Actor Esme Bianco, Marilyn Manson settle sex abuse lawsuit

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—"Game of Thrones" actor Esmé Bianco has agreed to settle a federal lawsuit with rocker Marilyn Manson in which she alleged sexual, physical and emotional abuse, attorneys for both sides said Wednesday.

Bianco reached the agreement in her lawsuit against Manson and his record company "in order to move on with her life and career," lawyer Jay Ellwanger said in an email.

Manson's attorney Howard

King also confirmed the agreement in an email. He previously said the actions alleged in the suit "simply never happened" and were "provably false."

In the lawsuit filed in federal court in Los Angeles in 2021, Bianco said

Manson, whose legal name is Brian Warner, violated human trafficking law by bringing her



Manson

to California from England in 2009 and 2011 under the false pretenses of roles in music videos and movies that never materialized.

The suit alleged Manson deprived Bianco of food and sleep, gave her alcohol and drugs, locked her in a bedroom, whipped her, cut her, gave her electric shocks, tried to force her

to have sex with another woman and threatened to enter her room and rape her during the night.

A Tuesday court filing says a request for dismissal, which remains subject to a judge's approval, will be filed in the next 45 days. Details of the terms were not released.

Two similar lawsuits against Manson, one filed by a former assistant, the other by a model, have been dismissed by judges while at least one more remains.

## Panic! at the Disco ends; Brendon Urie to focus on family

**NEW YORK (AP)**—First there were four, then they became three and finally just one. Now it's time to say a final farewell to art pop-rocker group Panic! at the Disco.

Brendon Urie, the only musician left from the original group, announced on the band's Instagram page Tuesday that Panic! at the Disco "will be no more."

Urie, 35, shared that he and his wife, Sarah, are expecting a baby and that he plans to focus on his family. "The prospect of being a father and getting to watch my wife become a mother is both humbling and exciting. I look forward to this next adventure," he wrote.

The band had 15 songs in the Billboard Hot 100, with two Top 10 hits in "High

Hopes" in 2019 and "I Write Sins Not Tragedies" in 2006. They scored two No. 1 albums with "Death of a Bachelor" in 2016—also earning a Grammy nomination for best rock album—and "Pray For the Wicked" in 2018.

"Whether you've been here since the beginning or are just finding us, it has been a pleasure to not only share the stage

with so many talented people but also share our time with you," Urie wrote.

The band was formed in 2004 by Urie and childhood friends guitarist Ryan Ross, drummer Spencer Smith and bassist Brent Wilson while they were still teenagers. Other members have been bassist Jon Walker and multi-instrumentalist Dallan Weekes.

## Grandma's Facebook posts strike a nerve after loss

**DEAR ABBY:** My daughter passed away nine years ago. She was almost 13. My mother never bothered to have a relationship with her when she was alive. But now, on every birthday and anniversary of her passing, Mom posts on Facebook how much she misses her and how "close" they were. Her friends all send messages of love addressed to Mom, with no mention of my husband and me. It hurts and upsets us, but I don't know how—or if—I should talk with her about it. Any words of advice?

**GRIEVING MOM IN CALIFORNIA**

**DEAR GRIEVING MOM:** Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your daughter. It is possible now that she is gone, your mother realizes how many opportunities she missed to have a close relationship with her grandchild, and she posts those messages out of guilt. She may also do it for attention, which is sad. You can't stop her from posting what she wants on her page, but you can spare yourself the upset you experience when you see it if you stay away from Facebook on these occasions.

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a closeted lesbian in my teens and really scared about coming out. I recently moved to an area of the country that is full of racists, sexists and homophobes. Most of my friends are really religious. One of them has said bad things about gay people and what she would like to do to them. I'm

scared to come out to them.

I have only come out to a few people, but I know my family will accept me no matter what. I would really like to feel comfortable around my friends as my true self, but I'm not sure how I can do that.

**YEARNING TO BE ME IN THE SOUTH**

**DEAR YEARNING:** Because you are sure your parents will be supportive and accepting, come out to them. However, unless you consider coming out in your community to be SAFE, you shouldn't do it. You CAN find friends on the internet. Social media can provide friendships until you are old enough to leave the area you now live in. This is what many young LGBTQ people do. You have a wonderful life ahead of you, and you should come out when you feel the time is right.

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** How does one handle visiting a patient who is in the hospital for tests or a procedure when they have an attention-seeking person sitting with them the entire time? The patient is up for visitors and able to communicate, but this extra person—who is not who you have gone to see—monopolizes the entire visit. I offered to give the person a break so I could actually visit the patient, but the hint was ignored. Any suggestions?

**DREADING VISITATION IN OHIO**

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR DREADING:** I do have one. Before you visit, call the patient and ask if a visit is welcome AND IF THERE IS A TIME WHEN YOU CAN BE ALONE. If the answer is no, wait until the patient is out of the hospital to have that visit. Between you and me, when someone is in the hospital, that person should rest rather than "entertain" anyone, with the exception of closest family members.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



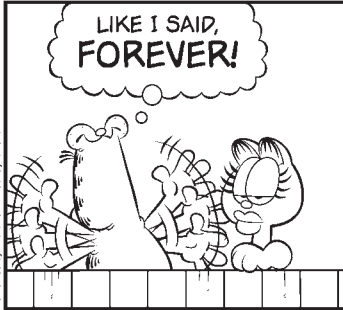
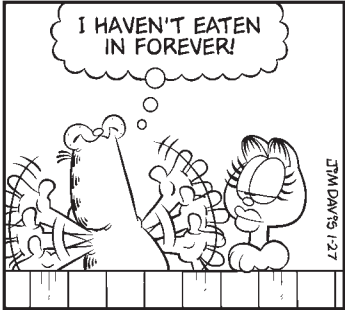
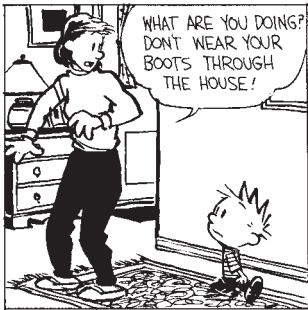
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

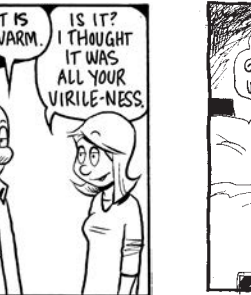


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Tummy muscles 4 Judge's garb 8 "Unh-unh" 12 Dove's call 13 Squeezes (out) 14 Modern taxi alternative 15 Created from scratch 17 Crystal-tapping sound 18 Party time, briefly 19 Church cries 20 Ort 22 Carousel, for one 24 Throat clearer 25 Succeeded 29 Fish-fowl link 30 Affix with needle and thread 31 1006, to Nero 32 "Great decision!"

DOWN 1 German cry 2 Scary shout 3 Tijuana hat 4 Chart anew 5 Fine 6 Sleep site 7 Jargon suffix 8 Eggnog sprinkling 9 Theater award 10 Ivy in Philly 11 Joule fractions 16 Wax-coated cheese 19 Mideast gulf 20 Crooned 21 Sneeze syllable 22 "Lady Love" singer Lou 23 "American —" 25 Deli array 26 Hardly a picky eater? 27 Egg 28 Ten-cent piece 30 Wound cover 33 "New World Sym-phony" composer 34 Hexagonal state 36 God, in Islam 37 Male swans 38 "Zip — -Doo-Dah" 39 Memory method 40 Spanish cheers 42 Swindle 43 Nabokov novel 44 Homer's bartender 45 Farm female

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paton Oswalt, 54; Alan Cumming, 58; Bridget Fonda, 59; Cris Collinsworth, 64.

Happy Birthday: Make your money work for you this year. Invest in something that protects you from being heavily taxed. Make upgrades to your home that will motivate you to spend less on travel and expensive entertainment and more time enjoying the comfort of your home. Being a good listener and observer will play in your favor when someone tries to make a questionable change. Your numbers are 7, 12, 19, 23, 31, 35, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Size up situations and summarize what others want from you. If you have a plan, you'll find it easier to take care of business and have ample time to enjoy friends or family. A personal change will lead to efficiency and praise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Haste makes waste; rushing around will result in mistakes, misunderstandings and misfortunes. Pay attention to the way you present your ideas to others. Don't give the impression that you will do the work yourself. Delegate responsibilities to the most appropriate person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for opportunities. Reconnect with people you enjoy working with and you'll learn something valuable. Your hard work will pay off, but don't let it debilitate you. Know when to take a break and protect your health and well-being.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll make headway if you follow your heart and do what matters to you most. Prac-

tice makes perfect; hone your skills and display your accomplishments. Use your attributes to bring about positive change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Treat money and shared expenses responsibly. Decline to get involved in joint ventures. Pay only for what you want, and be blatant regarding money matters and overindulgence. Learn to say no.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make unique plans for two. A getaway will bring you closer together and give you time to map your goals. Don't neglect your work responsibilities. Take care of business first; you'll ease stress and enjoy your time off more.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Speed things up and leave nothing incomplete. An opening you've been waiting for will unfold, but you'll have to act fast, or someone will snatch what rightfully belongs to you. Organization and preparation will be necessary but also emotionally draining. Replenish your energy.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov. 21): Speak up, find out where you stand and clarify your objective. Dealing with people who don't share your opinion will require compromise. Know what you are willing to give up before you enter negotiations. You'll have to earn respect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may feel competent, but someone's waiting for you to slip up. Be ready to defend your beliefs and plans, regardless of what or who tries to intervene. Taking a trip may entice you, but clear up personal matters before you take off.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't expect to slip under the radar if you do things differently. Someone will question what you are doing. Be prepared to use charm and persuasive tactics to win acceptance. Maintain momentum, but follow the rules.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your intentions and feelings to yourself. Don't jump from one thing to another. Being consistent and passionate about what you want to accomplish will make it easier to get things done without interference.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have to read between the lines if you want to know what will happen next. Don't expect others to be upfront or accommodating. Look out for your interests, do your own thing and refuse to let anyone take advantage of you.

Birthday Baby: You are charming, intelligent and disciplined. You are helpful and curious.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 🔭: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 🌟: Aim high; start new projects. 🚀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8			4	3	5			7
			1		7			
		6				3		
	9	7				4	6	
	2	4				1	3	
			9			8		
5			2		8			1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	6	7	4	9	1	5	3	2
9	3	5	8	2	7	1	6	4
1	4	2	6	3	5	8	7	9
2	7	4	1	6	3	9	5	8
6	9	3	5	4	8	2	1	7
5	1	8	9	7	2	3	4	6
3	5	9	7	8	4	6	2	1
4	2	6	3	1	9	7	8	5
7	8	1	2	5	6	4	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/26

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PUNCH THE CLOCK

Solution: 5 letters

D	Y	L	E	A	V	E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	R	A
E	P	A	N	T	L	A	C	I	N	A	H	C	E	M
V	P	V	D	O	N	A	M	E	G	A	W	V	L	O
I	A	I	S	I	E	T	A	L	F	I	K	I	U	
C	H	R	W	S	G	T	G	H	F	T	E	A	A	N
E	T	R	E	S	N	I	A	A	C	O	E	B	T	
G	Y	A	U	O	R	T	T	N	S	I	B	R	I	O
N	R	T	A	O	B	R	S	N	A	S	E	I	R	L
I	A	N	P	A	P	E	M	I	L	R	G	U	I	A
K	L	S	D	M	S	R	N	I	R	K	N	T	T	L
C	A	E	A	E	O	T	E	I	N	P	E	T	Y	U
A	S	T	R	F	D	R	A	C	H	U	D	O	E	N
R	S	P	R	D	I	A	P	R	O	C	T	N	T	C
T	E	E	H	S	E	M	I	T	T	R	A	E	A	H
R	P	R	O	F	E	S	S	I	O	N	D	M	R	H

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1/27

Agent, Amount, Arrival, Boss, Break, Button, Card, Clerk, Device, Digital, Employer, Ends, Handprint, Happy, Insert, Late, Leave, Lunch, Machine, Mechanical, Minute, Name, Noon, Paid, Performance, Profession, Prompt, Rate, Record, Reliability, Representative, Salary, Signed, Staff, Stamp, Start, Station, Swipe, Time Sheet, Total, Tracking, Trades, Wage

Yesterday's Answer: Departments

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Damian Lillard scores 60 points, helps Blazers beat Jazz



**PORTLAND, Ore.** (AP)—Damian Lillard scored a season-high 60 points, hitting nine 3-pointers, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Utah Jazz 134-124 on Wednesday night.

Lillard tied for second-most in the NBA this season. Donovan Mitchell had 71 in an overtime game for Cleveland against Chicago on Jan. 3, and Luka Dončić scored 60 in Dallas' OT victory over New York on Dec. 27.

Jerami Grant added 19 points to help Portland win its second straight game.

Lauri Markkanen led the Jazz with 24 points. He had a layup followed by a tip shot with 5:20 left that got Utah to 115-108.

When Lillard came to the free-throw line late in the game, the home crowd stood and chanted "MVP! MVP!" Lillard missed a jump shot with 29.1 seconds left that would have topped his career best 61. Lillard has four career games of 60 points or more. He's reached 61 twice.

## 76ERS 137, NETS 133

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—James Harden hit two 3-pointers and had a driving layup in the final four minutes against his former Brooklyn teammates and Philadelphia stretched its winning streak to six games.

Tyrese Maxey led the 76ers with 27 points, and Joel Embiid had 26. Harden added 23, and Philadelphia was 35 of 36



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, center, dribbles the ball past Utah Jazz forward Jarred Vanderbilt, left, and guard Jordan Clarkson during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

from the foul line.

Seth Curry had a season-high 32 points for Brooklyn. Kyrie Irving had 30 for the Nets, who have lost five of the last seven games without Kevin Durant.

The game was the first regular-season matchup between Embiid and former teammate Ben Simmons since a February 2022 trade that sent Simmons to Brooklyn for Harden. Simmons missed the rest of the 2022 season with various injuries, then Embiid was injured and missed the Sixers' win in Simmons' Philadelphia return Nov. 22.

## LAKERS 113, SPURS 104

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Anthony Davis scored 21 points in his return from a right foot injury, LeBron James added 20 and Los Angeles bounced back from loss to the Clippers on Tuesday night to beat San Antonio.

Davis, who missed 20 games due to a stress injury suffered during the first half of a Dec. 16 game at Denver, came in with 4:22 remaining in the first quarter. He was 7 of 15 from the field and also had 12 rebounds in 26 minutes.

Patrick Beverley scored a

season-high 18 points and Rui Hachimura added 12 in his Lakers debut. Keldon Johnson had 25 points for San Antonio.

## BUCKS 107, NUGGETS 99

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 14 rebounds to help Milwaukee beat defeated short-handed Denver.

The Western Conference-leading Nuggets were missing four usual starters in two-time reigning MVP Nikola Jokic (left hamstring tightness), Jamal Murray (left knee/injury management), Kentavious

Caldwell-Pope (sprained right wrist) and Michael Porter Jr. (personal reasons).

Jokic returned Tuesday night after missing two games and had his fourth straight triple-double in a 99-98 victory at New Orleans. But he rested the hamstring Wednesday rather than playing on back-to-back nights.

Aaron Gordon had 26 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets.

## TIMBERWOLVES 111, PELICANS 102

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored

37 points, Rudy Gobert had 17 points and 12 rebounds in his return from a groin injury, and Minnesota spoiled New Orleans star Brandon Ingram's return from a two-month absence.

Ingram, who had not played since Nov. 25 and had missed 29 games with a left toe injury, scored 13 points but struggled with his shot, missing 14 of 18, including all six attempts from deep.

CJ McCollum scored 25 points, and Jonas Valanciunas added 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Pelicans. They lost their sixth straight and dropped their ninth in the 12 games missed by star power forward Zion Williamson (right hamstring).

## RAPTORS 113, KINGS 95

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—Pascal Siakam had 26 points and 11 rebounds in Toronto's victory over Pacific Division-leading Sacramento.

Fred VanVleet scored 17 points for the Raptors, who had lost four of their last six.

Kevin Huerter scored 21 points to lead the Kings. They entered the game with seven wins in their last eight games.

## WIZARDS 108, ROCKETS 103

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Kyle Kuzma scored 20 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter to help Washington rally past Houston.

The Wizards trailed by 19 points and were down by 10 to open the fourth quarter.

Houston's Alperen Sengun had 21 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his second career triple-double.

## HAWKS 137, THUNDER 132

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP)—Trae Young had 33 points and 11 assists in Atlanta's victory over Oklahoma City.

Dejounte Murray scored 21 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic added 20.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 36 points for Oklahoma City.

## MAGIC 126, PACERS 120

**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—Paolo Banchero scored 23 points, Garry Harris made all six of his 3-pointers and added 22 points and Orlando held Indiana.

Orlando made 15 of 28 attempts from 3-point range and shot 56% overall.

Bennedict Mathurin had 26 points for Indiana for the second straight game. Myles Turner added 22 points and 13 rebounds.

# NBA All-Star rosters won't be picked until game night

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The NBA All-Star Game is Feb. 19. And nobody will know the All-Star rosters until that night.

Not even the players themselves.

The team captains — probably LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers and either Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo or Brooklyn's Kevin Durant — will make their picks in a live, televised pregame segment shortly before the game begins in Salt Lake City.

The NBA and the National Basketball Players Association announced the format change on Tuesday night.

This will be the sixth time that the league has used the format where captains choose their teams, but in each of the first five instances the rosters were selected several days before the game.

The captains and starters will be announced on Thursday.

James has been a captain



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, and forward Troy Brown Jr. celebrate after defeating the Portland Trail Blazers in an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023.

in each of the first five years and, based on the results of voting released by the league late last week, is virtually certain to be one again this year.

The leading vote-getter from both the Eastern and Western Conference earns the right to be a captain.

Durant was the early lead-

er among East players, then fell slightly behind Antetokounmpo in the most recent balloting. He's still expected to be selected as a starter, and

it won't be known until Thursday if he reclaimed the East voting lead in the final days.

Ballots to decide the starters were due Saturday.

"I want to play," Durant told reporters in New York on Tuesday. "I want to be a part of all these events."

James' teams are 5-0 in All-Star games when he is a captain.

Durant has been a captain as the East's voting leader in each of the past two years. Antetokounmpo was in the previous two years, 2019 and 2020.

The top three frontcourt players and top two guards in each conference will be chosen as starters, with the leading overall vote-getters from each conference serving as captains and choosing their teams.

Fan voting counts for 50% of the starters balloting, a media ballot counts for 25% and the ballots turned in by NBA players count for the other 25%.

Reserves—chosen by NBA coaches, seven players from each conference—will be revealed Feb. 2.



# Paul tops Shelton at Australian Open, faces Djokovic next



**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)**—Tommy Paul received

a lot less attention than his younger, less-experienced, opponent, Ben Shelton, heading into their all-American quarterfinal at the Australian Open.

Perhaps that was a product of the fascination with the out-of-nowhere Shelton: Just 20, and less than a year after winning an NCAA title for the University of Florida, he was traveling outside of the United States for the first time and participating in his second Grand Slam tournament.

So the loud shouts heard most often emanating from the Rod Laver Arena stands on Wednesday, under the sun that carried the temperature to 87 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius), were for one of the pair: "Let's go, Benny! Let's go!" or "Benny, Benny, Benny! Oi, Oi, Oi!" or "Go, Gators!"

"He had a pretty good trip," Paul noted.

Paul's story is a pretty good one, too, and it is the one that will keep going at Melbourne Park: The 25-year-old was a star in the juniors and now is making good on that promise in the pros, using a 7-6 (6), 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Shelton to reach his first Grand Slam semifinal in his 14th appearance at a major.

"Every junior to pro has a different path. ... Mine has been, like, the slowest," the 35th-ranked Paul said, mentioning a group of Americans he grew up with: Taylor Fritz, Frances Tiafoe, Reilly Opelka. "I like to think the last four years of my career has just been like steady steps mov-

ing up. I mean, that's what it's felt like. I feel like hopefully 2023 is the year where I really make a big jump."

As a bonus, Paul's mother was in the crowd for the biggest victory of his career. He said Mom booked a flight after he won his fourth-round match, then went straight from work to the airport to make the long journey from the U.S.

"She's done a lot for me, from when I was really young until now. She's sacrificed a ton to get me here," Paul said. "She deserves to be here and deserves to see me win big matches."

Paul's next opponent will be 21-time Grand Slam singles champion Novak Djokovic, who overwhelmed No. 5 seed Andrey Rublev 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. After dealing with a worrisome left hamstring in his first two matches, Djokovic has been on quite a roll: He's won his past 11 sets and dropped a total of 27 games in that span as he chases a 10th championship in Melbourne—"something that sends a message," he said, "to all my opponents remaining in the draw."

The other men's semifinal Friday is Stefanos Tsitsipas against Karen Khachanov.

After dropping Rublev's record in major quarterfinals to 0-7 and extending his own winning streak at the Australian Open to 26 matches, equaling Andre Agassi for the longest run there in the Open era, Djokovic looked ahead to facing Paul for the first time.

"I know how he plays. ... He's been around for a few years. I watched him play quite a bit, especially during this tournament. He's



Tommy Paul of the U.S. celebrates after defeating compatriot Ben Shelton in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

been playing probably tennis of his life," Djokovic said. "Very explosive, very dynamic player."

Paul initially broke through as a teenager, taking the 2015 junior title at the French Open (beating Fritz) and getting to the final at Flushing Meadows that year, too (losing to Fritz). Since turning professional, he has claimed one tour-level trophy, at Stockholm in 2021, and, until this week, had made it as far as the fourth round at just one Grand Slam tournament—at Wimbledon a year ago.

Now Paul is the first man from his country to make it to the final four at Melbourne

Park since Andy Roddick in 2009. Roddick was also the last man from the U.S. to win a Grand Slam singles championship, at the U.S. Open 20 years ago.

And while Shelton was sort of adopted by the locals—"The crowds have been pretty unbelievable. ... They kind of treated me like one of their own," he observed—Paul was not drawing the same amount of adoration.

"I've been on the outside courts, grinding, until the round of 16," Paul said. "I've been flying under the radar a little bit."

No longer.

The women's semifinals

Thursday night (3:30 a.m. Thursday EST) will be Victoria Azarenka vs. Elena Rybakina, and Aryna Sabalenka vs. Magda Linette.

Sabalenka improved to 9-0 in 2023 without dropping a set yet by saving 12 of 14 break points while beating Donna Vekic 6-3, 6-2. Linette never got past the third round in 29 other Grand Slam tournaments—and exited in the first round at 17 of those—but is still around after a 6-3, 7-5 win over two-time major finalist Karolina Pliskova.

Based purely on ranking, Paul offered a much sterner test than anyone Shelton had faced in Australia: His prior

opponents were ranked 67th, 96th, 113th and 154th.

Paul, meanwhile, took out two seeds: No. 24 Roberto Bautista Agut and No. 30 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

This matchup was the first Grand Slam quarterfinal between two American men since 2007, when Roddick beat Mardy Fish in Melbourne, and Paul generally was content to block back those big lefty serves that kept coming from Shelton, then do what he could to get the better of back-and-forths.

Paul was more steady than spectacular, limiting his mis-cues with compact swings off both wings.

"Extremely solid from the baseline," Shelton said. "He did a great job moving me around the court, keeping me off balance."

They shared a light moment when Paul's coach, Brad Stine, told him to look for a serve down the "T" on the Ad side of the court. Shelton noticed the exchange and kicked his serve wide, leaving Paul out of position and with no chance at reaching the ace. Both players smiled.

Shelton broke twice late in the third to steal that set and yelled, "Yeah!" as he raised his left fist, then pointed to his ear with his right index finger, as if telling the crowd, "Let me hear you!"

Maybe Shelton relaxed a bit there, because he started the next set poorly, double-faulting twice in a row and then missing a backhand to gift-wrap a break for Paul.

Soon enough, it was Paul letting out a scream of delight—"Let's go!"—after the last point, then meeting Shelton at the net for a warm hug.

By DAVID BRANDT  
AP SPORTS WRITER



Patrick Mahomes has a very sore right ankle. Jalen Hurts has a bum right shoulder.

Even so, neither quarterback is complaining in the lead up to Sunday's NFL conference championship games.

Mahomes went through a normal morning walkthrough Wednesday and then headed out for an afternoon practice with the rest of the Kansas City Chiefs, four days after a Jacksonville pass rusher landed on his ankle and forced him to hobble off the field in pain.

The Chiefs host the Cincinnati Bengals in the AFC title game Sunday.

"The last few days has been an all-day thing," Mahomes said, "where you're doing treatment and rehab and watching film. You're trying to make sure you're pre-

## Chiefs' Mahomes shrugs off pain, plans to play

pared for the Bengals, a great football team, mentally and physically."

Mahomes, a two-time All-Pro, was still pretty good on one ankle against the Jaguars. He left in the second quarter after the injury but returned for the second half and performed well enough to push the Chiefs to a 27-20 victory. They advanced to their fifth consecutive conference title game.

Philadelphia's Hurts—who is a finalist for MVP along with Mahomes, Josh Allen, Justin Jefferson and Joe Burrow—has a sore right shoulder and told Fox Sports before the team's 38-7 win over the Giants that he was "nowhere near 100%."

He looked fine against the Giants, completing 7 of 7 passes for 89 yards in the first quarter and eventually threw for two touchdowns and ran for another score in Philadelphia's lop-

sided win.

Hurts said Wednesday his shoulder is still sore, though he didn't seem concerned.

"I've felt better, but it doesn't really matter," Hurts said. "I've got to get it done."

The Eagles will host the San Francisco 49ers and rookie quarterback Brock Purdy in the NFC Championship on Sunday. The two winners from the conference championship games will advance to the Super Bowl on Feb. 12 in Glendale, Arizona.

Purdy is set for perhaps his toughest test yet Sunday, when he faces an Eagles defense that led the NFL with 70 sacks and must deal with an imposing road environment.

Two of the four remaining teams are in the midst of long winning streaks. The 49ers have won 12 straight games while the Bengals have won 10 straight.

Here are some other things to know during the postseason:

### NO NEED FOR NEUTRAL

The AFC title game would have been played in Atlanta next weekend if the Buffalo Bills had beaten the Bengals, under a rule adjustment approved by NFL owners.

The league decided on the first of its kind conference championship neutral site setting because the Bills (13-3) finished the season a half-game behind the Chiefs (14-3) after their game at Cincinnati was canceled on Jan. 2 when Bills safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest and had to be resuscitated on the field.

Hamlin has since been making a remarkable recovery and attended Sunday's game in Buffalo, waving to fans from a stadium suite.

In the end, all the Atlanta

hypotheticals weren't needed. That's because the Bengals and Burrow are rolling. Cincinnati beat Buffalo 27-10 and is one win away from playing in a second straight Super Bowl.

"Better send those refunds," Burrow said, referring to the 50,000 or so tickets already sold for a game that will never be played.

### WHAT'S THE FORMAT FOR THE PLAYOFFS?

This is the third straight year of the current playoff format, which included the top seven teams from both the AFC and the NFC.

The four division winners in both conferences automatically get the top four seeds, regardless of record, and then the top three teams with the best record that didn't win their division are the wild-card

selections. That's why it's fairly common for a wild-card selection to have a better record—but worse playoff seeding—than a team that finished as a division winner.

The No. 1-seeded team in each conference gets a bye into the second round—that's the Chiefs and Eagles—while No. 2 hosts No. 7, No. 3 hosts No. 6 and No. 4 hosts No. 5 during the wild-card weekend.

The NFL re-seeds teams after each playoff round. That means no matter how the bracket started, the lowest-seeded team always travels to the highest-seeded team.

There are four rounds to the playoffs: The wild-card round was Jan. 14-16, the divisional round was last weekend, the conference championship games are this Sunday and the Super Bowl is scheduled for Feb. 12 in Glendale, Arizona, at the home stadium of the Arizona Cardinals.



# ACS, MCS lead in HS varsity caging start



LEIGH GASES

Agape Christian School's Caleb Cui goes for the rebound against Saipan International School in the first varsity match of the season in the 2022-2023 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By **LEIGH GASES**  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Agape Christian School Torchbearers and the Mount Carmel School Knights lead the 2022-2023 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League, as they pummeled through their foes for their first win of the season on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Torchbearers came scorching through the court as

they defeated Saipan International School, 42-11, while the Knights held down their fort against Grace Christian Academy, 49-18.

The young SIS Geckos lineup were overpowered by the height and skill of the Torchbearers, who reduced them to just 4 points in the second half of the game.

Caleb Cui, who led the Torchbearers, showed off his speedy footwork and pinpoint accuracy as he banked 18 of the team's 48 points.

On the defensive, steals and blocks from the speedy

hands of the Torchbearers made the Geckos handle on the ball almost non-existent; and as bucket after bucket were made, a chance for a comeback grew slimmer and slimmer.

SIS' Casey Chambers, Omari Joab, Peter White, and Yunwoo Nam, scored their team's 11 points, while ACS' Allen Luo, Michael Ma, Bill Li, Stephen Chen, Aaron Wang, and Abraham Zhu contributed the other 30 points.

Right after, the Knights and Eagles duked it out, with the former emerging victorious

as Lance Lerio led the barrage with 13 points.

The Eagles' Ryan Daproza tried to single-handedly bring his team to victory with 10 of their 18 points, but was drowned out by the constant swishing from the Knights' offense.

Daproza's teammates Julian Taitano, Eric Lai, and Ayden Yumul all lent a hand but it was not enough to catch up.

Meanwhile, the Knights'

Jay Francis Pineda's 8 points, Leopoldo Naraja and Derek Sasamoto's 7 each, and Michael Mercado's additional 6, pulled them further away from the reaching talons of the Eagles.

In the junior varsity games of the night, the Marianas High School junior varsity beat MCS JV, 39-12; and the Saipan Southern High School JV drowned out the MHS JV-2 team, 28-11.

**ACS 42** – Cui 18, Li 9, Luo 6, Chen 3, Ma, Zheng, and Zhu 2.

**SIS 11** – Joab 4, Chambers 3, White 2, Nam 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 20, 7; 42, 11.

**MCS 49** – Lerio 13, Pineda 8, Naraja 7, Sasamoto 7, Mercado 6, San Nicolas, Borja, Han, and Xue 2.

**GCA 18** – Daproza 10, Taitano 4, Lai and Yumul 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 20-8; 20-10.

## Joe Sablan is SGA December Ace

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Joe Sablan caught the bus for Saipan Golfers Association's 2022

Ace of Aces Tournament after topping the final monthly competition of the year last Jan. 15 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

He went 46-48 in the front and back nine for a gross of 94. Minus his 24 handicap, Sablan came away with a 70 net score to win the SGA December Ace of the Month Tournament.

Larry Deleon Guerrero actually tied Sablan with his own net 70, based on a 92 gross (50-42) and a 22 handicap, but lost in a scorecard tiebreaker.

Third and fourth place was also a tie between Nick Sablan and Rick Kautz with both veteran golfers firing net scores of 77. Sablan (gross 85, 42-43), however, edged Kautz (88, 47-41) on the proverbial tie-breaking hole.

In the closest to the pin competition, Kautz was the lone winner after topping hole No. 13. There were no winners in holes No. 3, 7, and 17.

In the longest drive, Nick Sablan brought the lumber in hole No. 2. Ditto for Kautz in hole No. 18.

By virtue of winning the December Ace, Joe Sablan now joins Edward C. Sablan



Sablan

(January), Frances M. Sablan (February), Nick C. Sablan (March), Larry I. Deleon Guerrero (April), Alex Tudela (May), Mariano Fajardo (June), Rick Kautz (July), Das Krishnan (August), Ed Manibusan (Sep-

tember), Tony Benavente (October), and Jung Eun Teack (November) in the 2022 SGA Ace of the Month Tournament.

And speaking of the SGA 2022 Ace of Aces Tournament, the season-ending two-round competition is scheduled this weekend, Jan. 28 and 29, with the latter scheduled as the January Ace of the Month Tournament.

## JSN

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an upset as Ebuen scored 7 straight points at the start of the fourth. But enough was enough and JSN Construction went on to double team him and that stopped the scoring and that led them to the 23-point win.

Tabora led JSN Construction with 29 points with Abuy and center Jorge De Guzman backing him up with 17 and 16 points, respectively.

Ebuen paced all scorers with 35 points with Dick Tibayan and Ferdie Tobias tossing in 17

and 16 points in the loss.

In the second game, No. 2 seed Blue Haus also had to overcome overconfidence before turning back third seed Vizion Insurance, 108-99.

Blue Haus never truly broke away from their opponents and just did enough to maintain their lead.

In fact, the outcome was undecided until the last five minutes of the match after Vizion Insurance cut their deficit to 86-89 on a triple by Dindo Pablo.

Going playful to serious, Blue Haus handed the ball to their veterans as Junar Guiab and Elmer Esdrelon eventually

brought them home.

An uncompleted 3-point play by Guiab after a foul by Mike Surima and a follow-up triple by Esdrelon quickly made it 94-86 for Blue Haus.

It became a 10-point lead shortly after a steal and a fast-break layup by Esdrelon. That was all she wrote for Vizion Insurance as Blue Haus went on to win by 9.

Guiab and Esdrelon were the highpoint men for Blue Haus with 30 and 29 markers, respectively. Fradel Sedillo and Jerry Tolentino had identical 22 points to spearhead Vizion Insurance in the loss.

In games in the open divi-

sion, Pepoy's Cafe (1-7) finally won a game after beating JIM Saipan (6-2), 93-87; Marianas Health Services (4-4) beat Vizion Insurance, 79-63 (2-6); Pacific Best Choice (4-4) outplayed Padrinis Tuesday Club (4-4), 82-78; Changming Market (8-1) won via walkover against Al-Ger Manpower (0-8); and Blue Haus (8-0) overcame NAPA Auto Parts

(4-4), 89-81.

**JSN Construction 111** – Tabora 29, Abuy 17, De Guzman 16, Villarin 14, Montano 14, Wesley 11, Park 6, Manabat 4.

**Legends Elite 88** – S. Ebuen 35, Tibayan 18, Tobias 17, Guinto 8, O. Ebuen 6, De Jesus 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-17, 45-39, 66-64, 111-88.

**Blue Haus 108** – Guiab 30, Esdrelon 29, Moreno 12, Berline 8, Estolas 7, Elchico 6, E. Santos 4, J. Santos 3, Peredo 3, Alano 2, Buenabajo 2.

**Vizion Insurance 99** – Tolentino 22, Sedillo 22, Catala 14, Surima 11, Saplan 10, Pablo 8, Sangoyo 7.

**Scoring by quarters:** 26-20, 52-41, 76-70, 108-99.

## CFOGA

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Joey Dela Cruz, Jack Diaz, and Erlinda Naputi. We did several tryouts and eventually formed a team and did several fundraising activities to support the federation in running the Mini Games," he said.

The CNMI attorney general said the cherry on top was when the CNMI bagged two medals in the golf event that contributed to the islands' historic performance in the 2022 edition of the sports event.

Zhimin Jin won the gold medal in the women's individual golf event, besting veteran par-busters twice her age; while the foursome of Franco Santos, J.J. Atalig, Joshua Atalig, and Zhi Yun Li salvaged a bronze medal in the men's team golf event.

"We medaled in the ladies and men's competition. The CNMI had not medaled in any Pacific Games before. It was a lot of work and dedication and thankfully the golf competition went without a hitch. I want to thank all the volunteers who showed up early in the mornings and stayed throughout the competition," he said.

As for moving forward in 2023, Manibusan said CFoGA is planning to start or provide support to a junior golf program and develop a unified and standardized handicap system for all federation members.

"The junior program is to develop golf skills for junior golfers hopefully achieving a scholarship at major colleges and universities. With regards to the unified handicap, the members will get a [United States Golf Association] handicap that will be useful

to tournament directors in placing the players on a tournament roll based on his or her skills."

Lastly, Manibusan wants CFoGA to engage local golf courses in considering a stable flat local rate for all resident golfers regardless of whether it's tourist season or not.

The chief law enforcement official of the CNMI then encouraged local golfers to, "enjoy the game of golf safely and with golf etiquette and rules in mind. I invite all golf associations to join the CNMI golf federation."

Manibusan said the golf federation can be a voice for all the member associations in addressing issues concerning the use of public lands for golf course development, for instituting golf programs in the schools, and other areas beneficial to its membership.

## DICKINSON

From Page 20

ferent skilled players," he said.

His goal is to keep improving his baseball skills and hopefully to get drafted into the big leagues one day.

The New York Yankees fan then recalled the days he would play catch growing up with his brother, Ethan, and his dad, Shaun Matsutaro, in his yard, and said that "I always looked up to how my dad used to play, he is what got me into baseball."

Dickinson also thanked

people in his life on his journey, "I'd like to thank all of my coaches, trainers, family, and girlfriend; especially my mom and grandparents for always supporting and encouraging me to go after my dream."

In his message to the youth of the CNMI hoping to make it big in baseball, he said "Keep pushing toward your dreams because I was once in your shoes!"

Before moving to California, Dickinson played in three divisions of the Saipan Little League and made it to the CNMI All-Star Team selections also in Major, Junior, and

Senior League categories. He used to compete for McDonald's, IT&E, and the Talaabwogh Falcons.

The 2016 Finals MVP (Junior League) then suited up for Rancho Mirage High School in the De Anza League for two seasons.

After claiming a starting spot in his shortened rookie season at COD due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he still put up impressive numbers in 23 games. He was then selected, along with only two other players, to the 2020 Palm Springs Collegiate League All-Stars.





Damian Lillard  
scores 60 points,  
helps Blazers beat  
Jazz  
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ACS, MCS lead  
in HS varsity  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## JSN Construction, Blue Haus forge finals duel

By MARK RABAGO  
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**J**SN Construction and Blue Haus are the last two teams battling for masters supremacy in the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League. This, after the Top 2 seeded teams vanquished separate opponents last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

In the first game of the masters Final Four, JSN Construction took its own sweet time to dispose of winless Legends Elite before prevailing, 111-88.

Legends Elite was motivated to pull the upset rug from under JSN Construction from the get-go and even led by a point, 17-16, after the first 10 minutes of action.

JSN Construction woke up a little bit from their stupor thanks to some timely hits from "Smoking" Jun Tabora and James Abuy as they entered the halftime break with a 45-39 advantage.



But Sonny Ebu and the rest of Legends Elite were not done by a long shot and remained within striking distance of the regular season top seed.

Ebu was on the forefront of Legends Elite fightback as the sweet-shooting big man shot the lights out from 3-point country and burned all defenders assigned to guard him for 28 points as it was just a 2-point game, 66-64, after three quarters of play.

Legends Elite still was in the game and appeared on the cusp of completing

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MARK RABAGO

JSN Construction's "Smoking" Jun Tabora splits the defense of Legends Elite's Ferdie Tobias, right, and Orly Ebu in their Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League masters game last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.



MARK RABAGO

Blue Haus' Martin Moreno pulls up for a jumper against Vizion Insurance's Fradel Cedilla in their Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League masters game last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

## Dickinson accepts scholarship to Oklahoma Baptist University

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

Former Saipan Little League Baseball player Spencer Dickinson

has accepted a two-year baseball scholarship at Oklahoma Baptist University for the fall 2023 semester.

Dickinson said that he vis-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spencer Dickinson, currently at the College of the Desert in California, has accepted a two-year baseball scholarship at the Oklahoma Baptist University which he will transfer to in the upcoming fall 2023 semester.

ited the school and felt that it was a good fit for him, saying "the school and baseball program offers several opportunities for me to be able to reach my goals." There, he will work on his bachelor's degree in Natural Science.

OBU is a National Collegiate Athletic Association, or NCAA Division II school, in the Great American Conference.

The 21-year-old is currently a sophomore and a third-baseman for his team at the College of the Desert in Palms Spring, California and was a varsity baseball player in his high school at Rancho Mirage.

Last year, he was also presented with the Inland Empire Athletic Conference, or IEAC Gold Glove award and was also named First Team All-IEAC, finishing in the Top 15 in the state in multiple offensive categories, including batting average (.451), on base percentage (.541), runs batted in (55), doubles (17), and hits (58).

The rising baseball star had

17 multi-hit games, including four games where he had three or more hits in a game, including a 6-hit, 5-RBI game at home last March 5, in a 28-10 win over Victor Valley.

Of the eight home runs Dickinson hit in 2022, none was bigger than his grand slam, in a playoff elimination game at home, against Long Beach City last May 7.

When asked how it is to play baseball at the collegiate level, the former Talaabwogh Falcons player said, "I feel playing baseball in the states and representing the CNMI is humbling, especially being one of the few lucky kids to experience that lifestyle out here."

"I believe living in the states has given me the opportunity to grow and define my previous skills and knowledge. I have been fortunate to have had some great training and coaching by people that have had the experience of playing in minor and major leagues, along with playing with dif-

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## CFoGA: Mini Games hosting highlight of '22



MARK RABAGO

Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations president Edward Manibisan, third from right second row, poses with the CNMI National Golf Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and other CFoGA officials during a dinner that selected the team last June at the Aqua Resort Club.

By MARK RABAGO  
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Like all sports associations that helped organize the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, the CNMI's successful hosting of the quadrennial event is the highlight of the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations this past year.



CFoGA president Edward Manibisan said the board was quite active last year behind the leadership of himself, vice president J.J. Atalig and secretary/treasurer Lorraine Babauta.

"We organized as we were tasked with running the golf event for the Mini Games. We brought in many great volunteers, Gery and

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